

MYTH-BUSTING: DID THE BATTLE OF TROY EVER REALLY HAPPEN?

HISTORY REVEALED

BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE
ISSUE 29 // MAY 2016 // £4.50

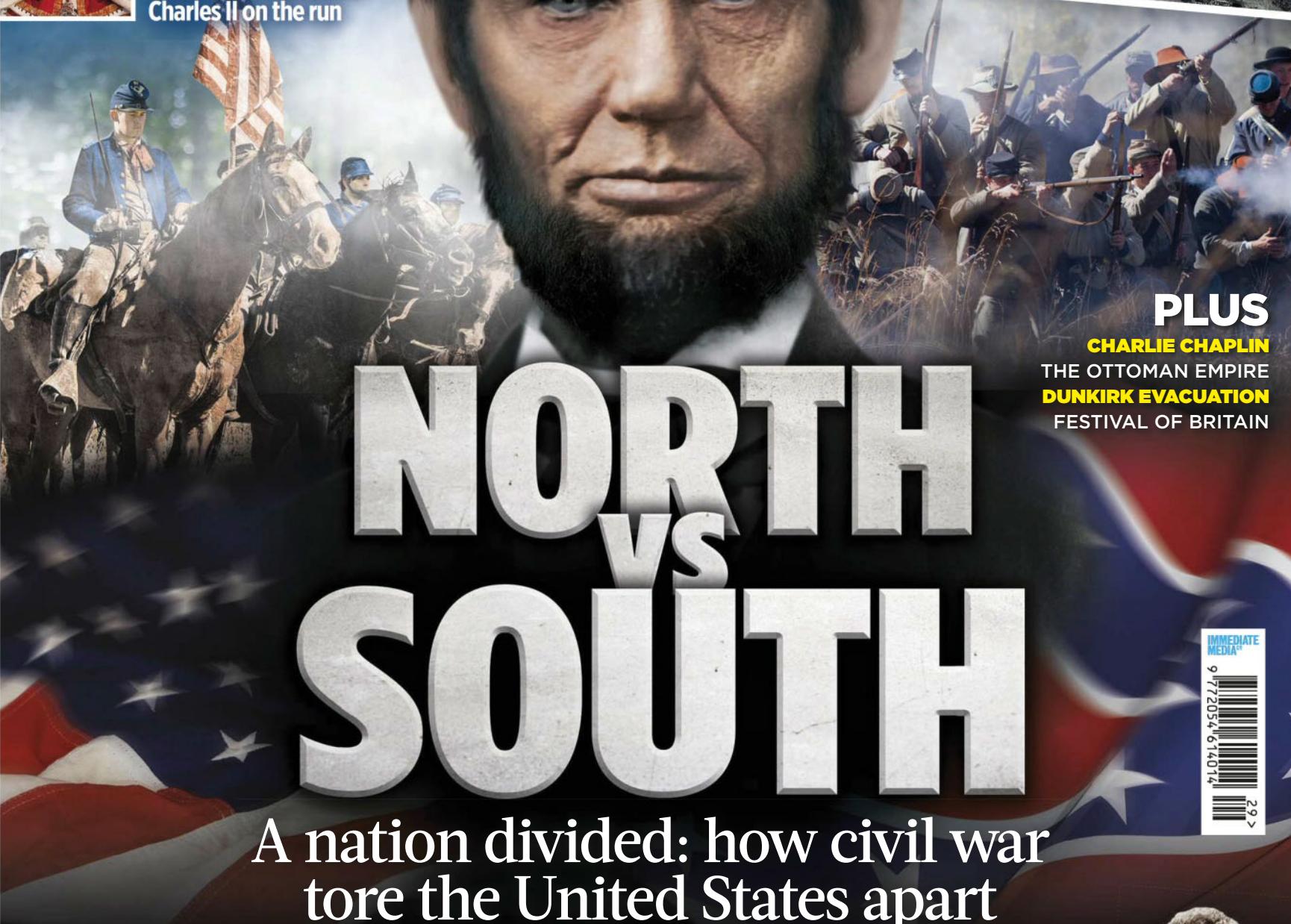


THE MERRY MONARCH

Charles II on the run



Inside: the 10 greatest flying machines in history



NORTH VS SOUTH

A nation divided: how civil war tore the United States apart

IMMEDIATE MEDIA
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29 >



Q&A: When did people start giving birthday presents?

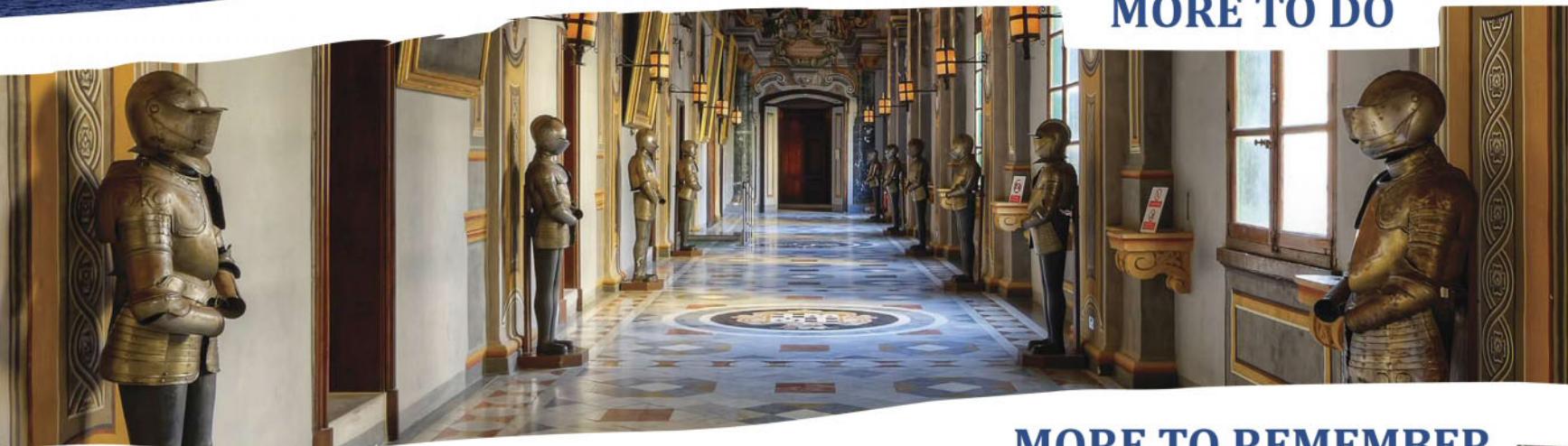
Marie Curie: genius
The woman who changed science



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MORE TO DO



MORE TO REMEMBER



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Welcome

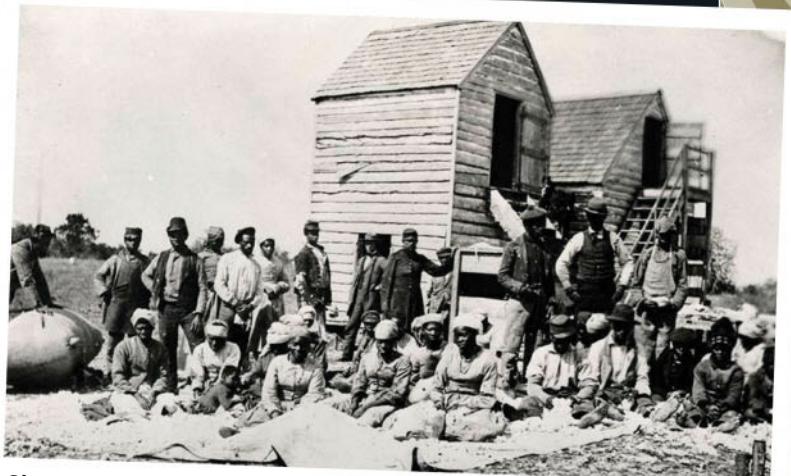


Abraham Lincoln famously said: “**A house divided against itself cannot stand.**” By the 19th century, the United States had become divided over the ‘peculiar institution’ of slavery, with the slave-holding South viewed by the free North as immoral. After Lincoln

was elected President, the tensions **exploded into bloody civil war.** Brother was pitted against brother over four years of brutal combat, but there was so much **more to it than a fight over slavery.** We’ve got the full story from page 42.

Sticking with civil wars, but this time much closer to home, we have the tale of King Charles II’s escape to France following his defeat at Worcester (p27). **The Merry Monarch** was forced to disguise himself as a servant, and even **resorted to sleeping in a tree** at one point in his desperation to avoid the same terrible fate as his father.

There’s plenty more adventure and endeavour elsewhere this month. Don’t miss our rundown of **the most important flying machines in history** (p74), or the journeys of Zheng He – a towering Chinese eunuch who



Slavery was key to the outbreak of the American Civil War, which remains the bloodiest conflict in the history of the United States

led a fleet of giant ships across the Indian Ocean (p63).

And for those who like a dose of mystery with their history, we separate truth from lies in Ancient Greece, as we look behind the **legendary Battle of Troy** (p35).

Lastly, be sure **write in** and tell us what you think of the issue! We love to hear from you.

Paul McGuinness
Editor

Don't miss our June issue, on sale 26 May 2016

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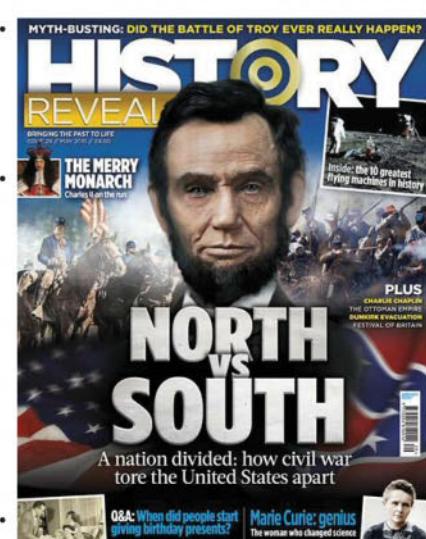


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Your key to the
big stories...

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THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

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Years that Sir Walter Ralegh's widow carried his embalmed head in a red velvet bag. See page 98

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Floors that lift operator Betty Lou Oliver dropped – and survived – when a plane crashed into the Empire State Building in 1945. See page 21

338,226

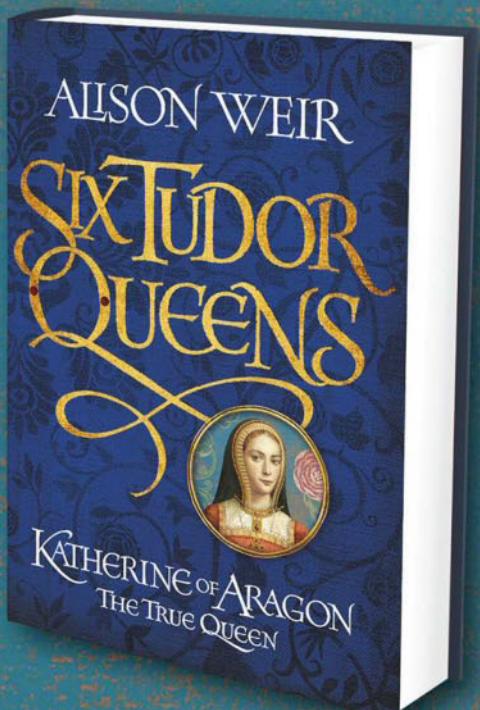
The number of troops rescued from Dunkirk, during the World War II evacuation from France. See page 21

'SHATTERS THE MANY MYTHS ABOUT HENRY VIII'S
LONG-SUFFERING FIRST WIFE' TRACY BORMAN

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KATHERINE OF ARAGON
THE FIRST OF HENRY'S QUEENS. HER STORY.

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How the Festival of Britain proved just the tonic



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When Charlie Chaplin fell prey to kidnappers, months after his death



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Escape and return of the King - on the run with Charles II

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A nation divided over four years of bloodshed

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With the Civil War (and his father's head) lost, the fun-loving Charles II became a fugitive in his own land p27

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COVER STORY The American Civil War

Four years that defined the US, with brother fighting brother, freedom for the slaves and the death of a President p42

In Pictures: the Festival of Britain

The year 1951 was a time of fun and celebration after World War II p56

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READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch – share your opinions on history and our magazine

LETTER
OF THE
MONTH

NEW ARCHAEOLOGY

We can blame Richard III for the recent public interest in disturbing our famous dead. Yet considering the ease and decency of the recent survey undertaken at Shakespeare's grave using radar equipment, I don't know why such tools aren't used elsewhere more. Without moving an inch of soil, many Shakespeare

being buried beneath a common road, or an ancient queen under Waterloo Station. We live in an age of wonderful technology, unknown to past archaeologists, who bust apart tombs without care or consequence. And with public interest at an all-time high in finding people or sites

"Public interest is at an all-time high in finding people or sites swallowed by history"

rumours – of 18-feet-deep vaults, curses and hidden manuscripts – were revised.

But there are many other possible 'what ifs' to reveal, such as Harald Hardrada

swallowed by history, I think more should be done to expand the venture, when we can do so without disturbing any of them.

Matthew Wilson

West Midlands



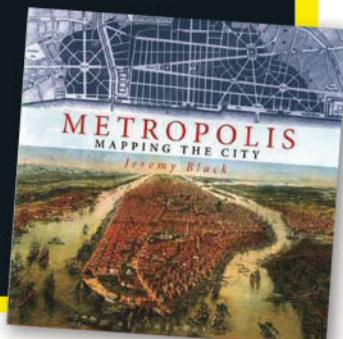
THE BARD'S BOUNCE

A hi-tech scan of the wordsmith's grave, documented on Channel 4's recent *Secret History: Shakespeare's Tomb*, revealed that the Bard's skull has probably been stolen

Editor replies:

Thanks for your letter, Matthew. The recent discovery by satellite of an unknown potential Viking settlement in North America is further testament to the wonderful opportunities offered to the field of archaeology by emerging technologies. It's exciting to think of what we may unearth next!

Matthew wins a copy of *Metropolis: Mapping the City* by Jeremy Black, published by Bloomsbury, worth £30. By exploring maps ranging from ancient times to the modern day, this beautiful volume asks how cities have changed, and what they say about us.



f Pat Kinsella's 'The Vikings: History's Greatest Explorers, (The Big Story, April 2016) is a great read, and I always enjoy Julian Humphrys' articles. He always manages to write a good story with a touch of humour and lightness. You asked what would I like to see in future issues of History Revealed – well, you have made my day, as I see you have a feature on King Charles II coming up. I do not know very much about this 'merry monarch', and I am definitely looking forward to learning more.

Elaine Robinson

ON CRUSADE

I was very surprised by a claim in your article on the Crusades (The Big Story, March 2016). In the writer's opinion, the Crusaders "sowed the seeds of Jihad, the Holy War against those who pose a threat to Islam", which makes it look like the Muslims were just peaceful victims of the Crusades.

Yet it is a historical fact that Christianity began to seriously decline in the Middle

East from the seventh century AD onward due to Muslim

'Jihad', resulting in the conquest of Jerusalem and the whole of North Africa.

Therefore, it can be argued that the first 'Crusaders' were actually Muslims. By the 11th century, the 'Jihad against unbelievers', resulted in the majority of Christians and Jews being either ethnically cleansed, or forced to convert to Islam, until Islam became the majority. From the 11th century on, the long tradition of Christian pilgrims visiting Jerusalem was no longer allowed.

This of course, does not justify the atrocities meted out in the Crusades, but does give more perspective to these events.

Kevin Whillock

Staffordshire

OARS TO THE READY

I am writing to compliment you on your excellent piece

on the Vikings (The Big Story, April 2016). However, although one can appreciate the appeal of these fearsome, seafaring raiders – overlooking the fact they were opportunistic rapists, looters and murderers – our collective consciousness of the Dark Ages is becoming increasingly dominated by them through the prevalence of such articles and documentaries, at the expense of the Anglo Saxons.

Saxons are often portrayed as the perennial fall guys to these superior warriors, even though in proper, pitched fights, the Saxons could best them. This point of view culminated in the incredibly irksome slogan of a British Museum exhibition a few years back – "Vikings Rock, Saxons Suck".

Partly to right this state of affairs, our project, the Woden Voyages, will be re-enacting

CRUSADER CLAIMS
The complex history of the Holy Land goes well beyond the Crusades, as Kevin points out



three Saxon voyages. They follow the migration routes that the Angles, Saxons and Jutes took across the North Sea from Denmark and northern Germany, shortly after the departure of the Romans.

We are constructing an authentic period ship, like that found in Nydam, Denmark. It is a pure rowing vessel, requiring a crew of 40 for each of the televised trips – and there are still spaces for rowers! I would be only too pleased to send further details to any of your readers interested in taking part.

John Crofts

via email

Editor replies:

You're right that the Vikings are often portrayed as the poster boys of the Dark Ages. See the Christmas 2014 issue of *History Revealed* for more on the Anglo-Saxons, while I hope you'll also enjoy our feature on the Celts next month. Good luck with your re-enactment, do be sure to keep us informed of your adventures. If any readers would like to get in touch with John, email us and we'll pass along your details.

The great new issue of @HistoryRevMag includes a look at the Bard's Histories (The Man Who Wrote History, April 2016), written by Shakespeare Magazine Editor, Pat Reid. @UKShakespeare

WORTH YOUR SALT

Your article 'History's Oddest Taxes' (Top Ten, April 2016) made me think of another historically taxed substance: salt. To my knowledge, the taxation of this resource played a key role in two of the biggest regime changes of all time – the French Revolution and India's independence from Britain. Remarkable!

I was also fascinated to learn that Haile Selassie had lived in Bath (The History Makers, April 2016). I used to live in a house just down the road from where he stayed – I never knew that! Thanks for a great magazine.

Pamela Huxford

Somerset

TAXING PROBLEM

Pamela thinks we missed a tax from our Top 10 – the revolutionary charge put on the dinner-table staple, salt

Have just read @HistoryRev Mag from cover to cover!
@Jenny_NewForest

BEACH LANDINGS

It was fantastic to see some of the amazing photographs from D-Day and its aftermath in your magazine (In Pictures, April 2016). A couple of years ago, I went on a holiday to Normandy to visit all five D-Day beaches, as well as the places where the paratroopers landed.

There isn't all that much to see at the beaches, but it was very humbling to look out over the sands, or stand by memorials and imagine the sights and sounds of 6 June 1944.

One place where you can still see evidence is Arromanches, where rusting sections of the Mulberry harbour sit on the beach. A little further out, the massive concrete breakwaters are still there too. The two harbours were extraordinary feats of engineering – and to keep them secret from the Germans was, if anything, more impressive. I was amazed at how quickly they were built and made operational (just a couple of weeks after D-Day).

I have always had an interest in D-Day, but I really saw it with

a new perspective during my trip. I found it difficult to control my emotions thinking of the men who gave their lives for the successful opening day of Operation Overlord.

Richard Summers
Gloucestershire

I live in the Texas Panhandle, ie the far north of this state. I discovered your magazine at Barnes and Noble bookstore in Amarillo. What a find! I read every article and am amazed by the interesting writing, layout and facts. Thank you for providing me with hours of educational entertainment.
Keep up the great work.
Angela Lamb

ARE YOU A WINNER?

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 27 are:

Andrew Anderson,
County Down
Stephen Kloppe, Croydon
AD Macfarlane, Dorset

Congratulations! You've each won *Scotland Yard's History of Crime in 100 Objects*, by Alan Moss and Keith Skinner, worth £30.

To test those little grey cells with this month's crossword, turn to page 96.

HISTORY REVEALED

Bringing the past to life

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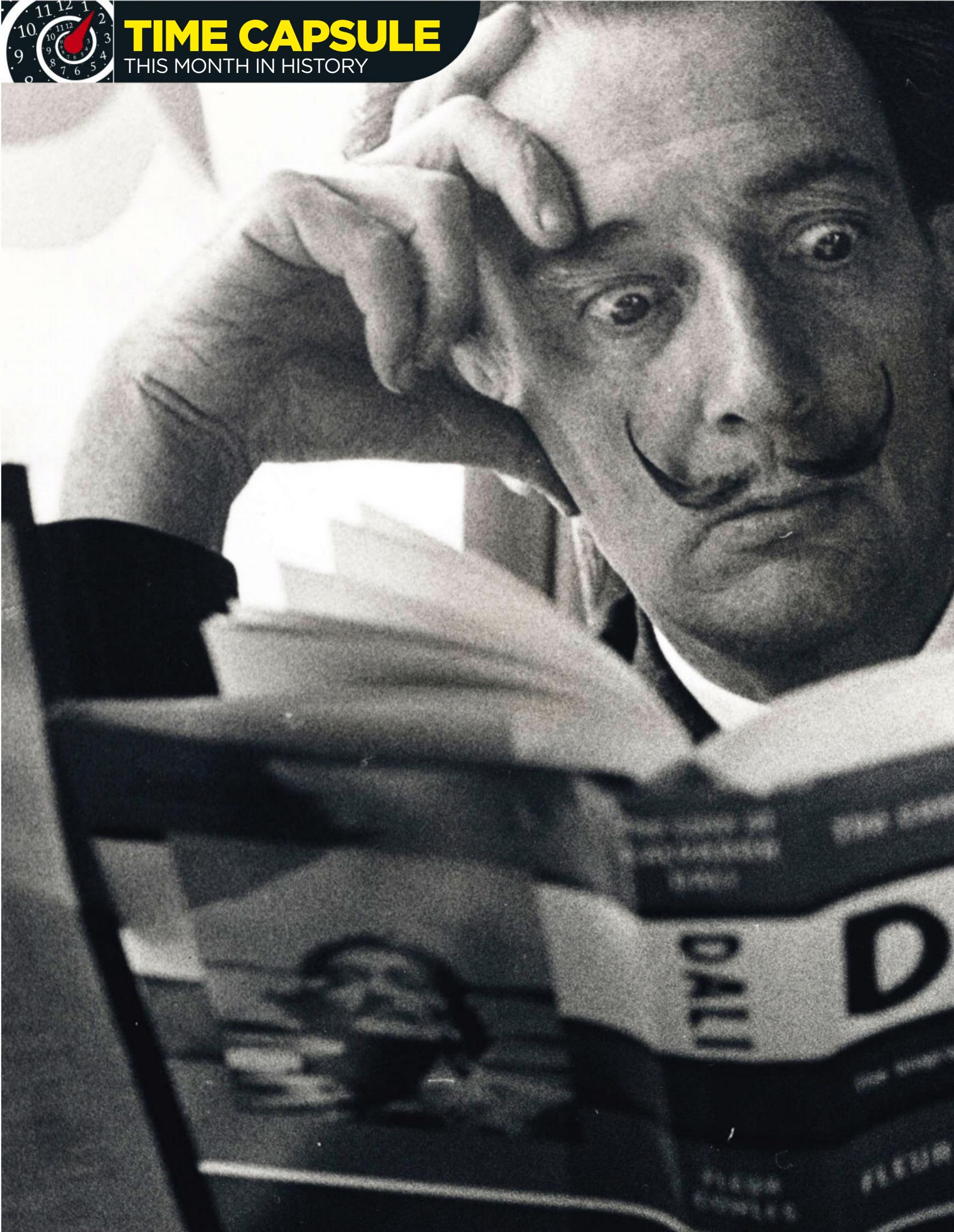
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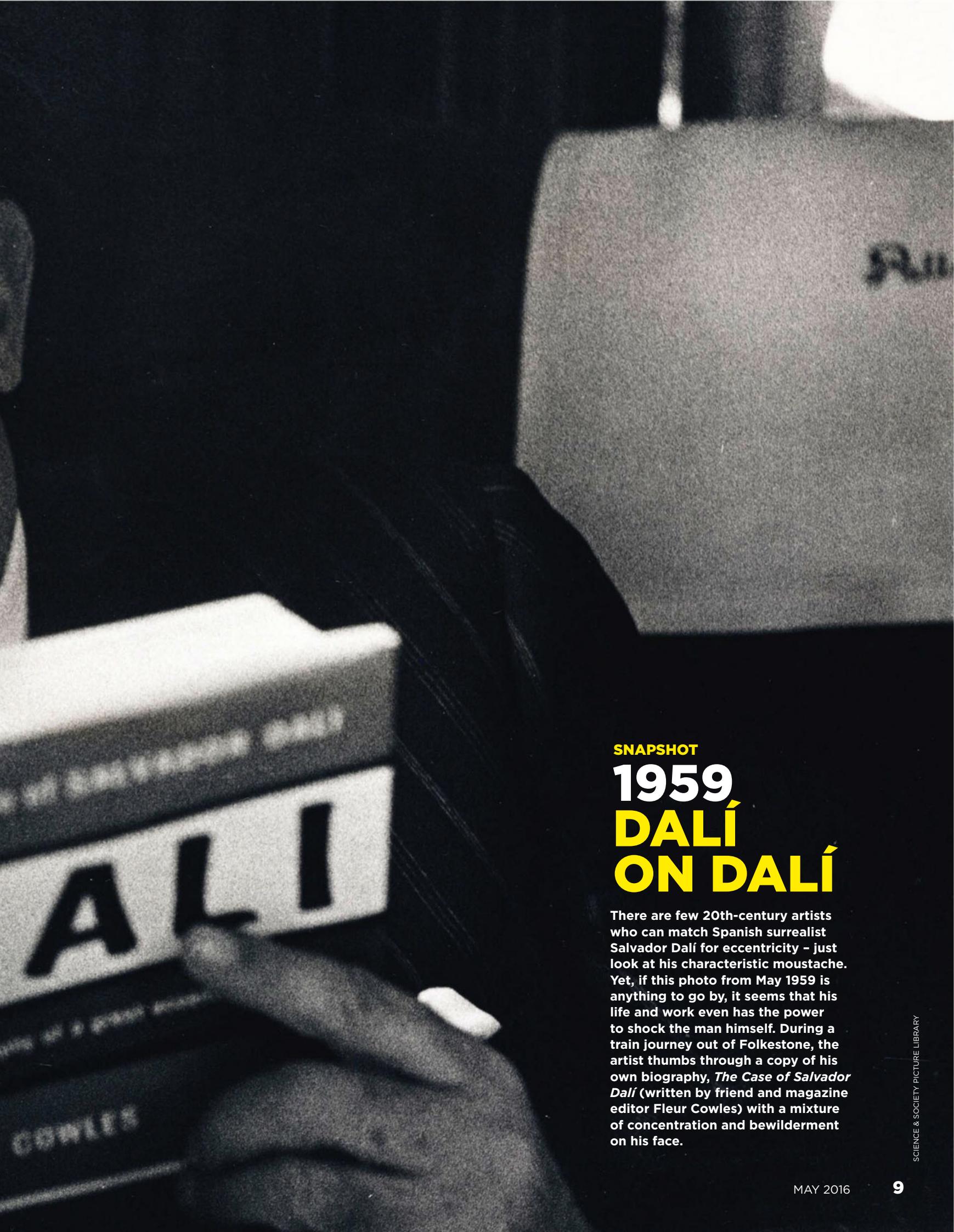
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TIME CAPSULE

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY





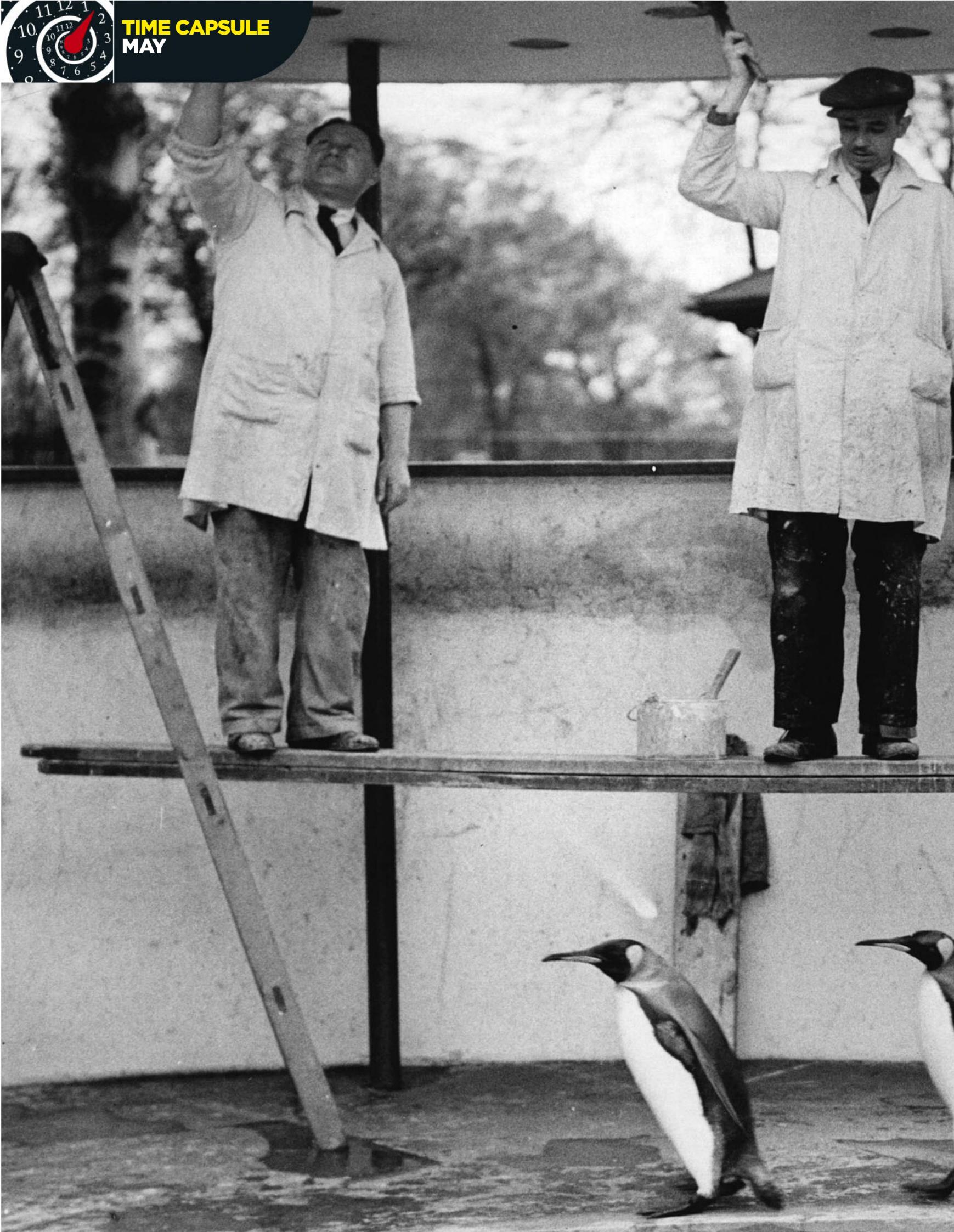
SNAPSHOT

1959, DALÍ ON DALÍ

There are few 20th-century artists who can match Spanish surrealist Salvador Dalí for eccentricity – just look at his characteristic moustache. Yet, if this photo from May 1959 is anything to go by, it seems that his life and work even has the power to shock the man himself. During a train journey out of Folkestone, the artist thumbs through a copy of his own biography, *The Case of Salvador Dalí* (written by friend and magazine editor Fleur Cowles) with a mixture of concentration and bewilderment on his face.



TIME CAPSULE
MAY





SNAPSHOT

1936 PENGUIN PARADE

Dressed in their finest dinner jackets, as always, three king penguins waddle through their enclosure at London Zoo without even a sideways glance to the workmen giving their royal highnesses' pool a fresh paint job. With its spiralling ramps, architect Berthold Lubetkin's penguin pool opens in 1934 and proves an instant favourite for visitors, both young and old. When they're temporarily moved out in 2004 – so the Grade I-listed pool can have a revamp and re-ramp – the puckish penguins like their new abode, the duck pond, better. The zoo decides to leave them there and the penguin pool is closed.



TIME CAPSULE MAY



SNAPSHOT

1982 SPOILS OF WAR

Steel helmets and water canteens are left strewn across a Falkland Islands field after the surrender of 1,000 Argentinian conscripts at the Battle of Goose Green in late May 1982.

The British were seeking a swift victory in the land operations of the Falklands War – a conflict for control over the South Atlantic archipelago – so sent 500 paratroopers to capture the settlements of Darwin and Goose Green. The Argentinians, who had invaded the Falklands nearly two months earlier, were well-entrenched, however. And there was more bad news for the British when the BBC World Service announced the assault before it began. It took two days of fighting for the Brits to achieve their victory.

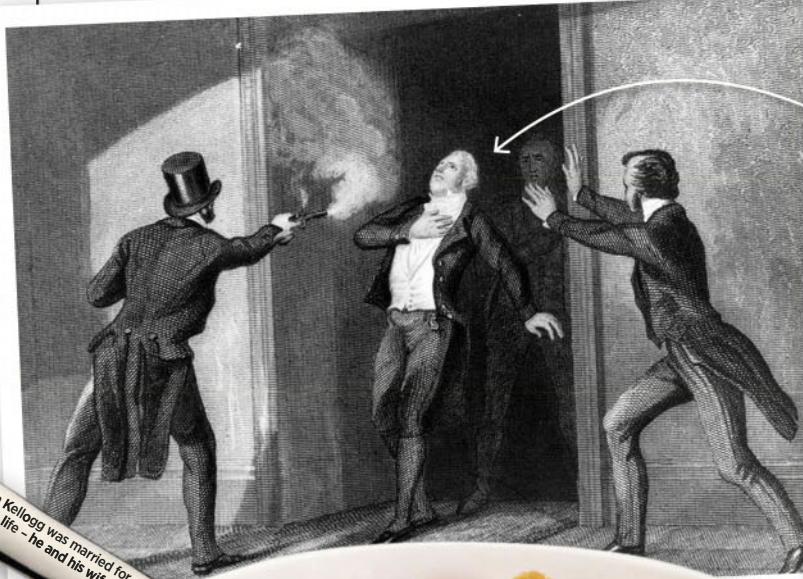




TIME CAPSULE MAY

"I READ THE NEWS TODAY..."

Weird and wonderful, it all happened in May

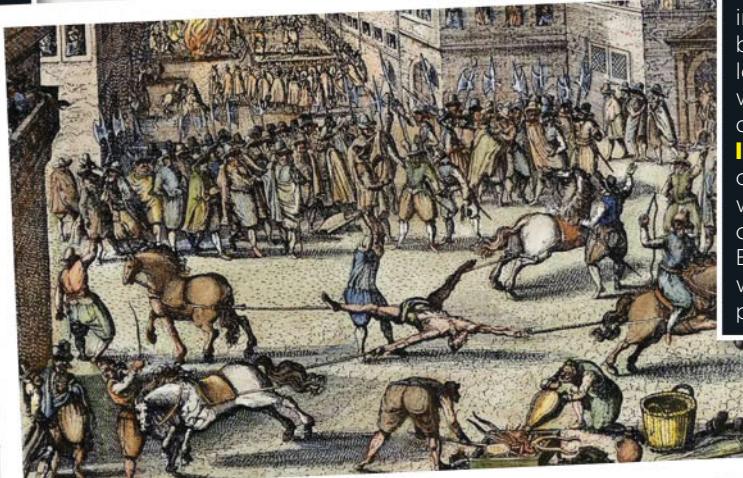


John Kellogg
John Kellogg was married for 40 years but remained celibate his whole life – he and his wife had separate rooms.



CORNY CAMPAIGN 1895 THE MOST IMPORTANT MEAL OF THE DAY

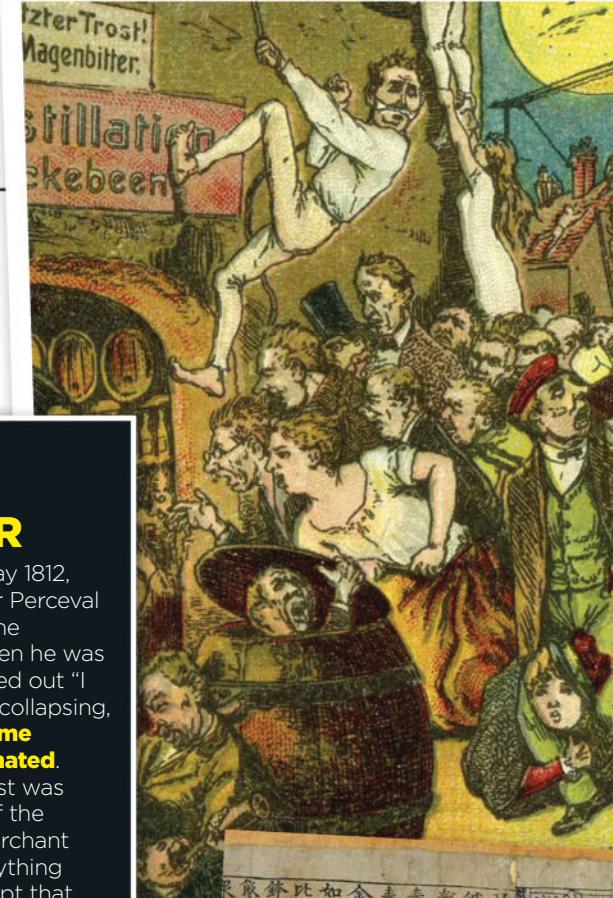
When Dr John Kellogg applied for a patent for his "flaked cereal" on 31 May 1895, his interest wasn't in providing a delicious choice for the breakfast table. Instead, he was on a mission to quell people's deeply damaging sexual urges with a plain and healthy diet – especially when it came to the "self-pollution" that was self-pleasure. His brother, Will, however, had different plans for 'Corn Flakes', so founded the Kellogg Company, added sugar and transformed the anti-sex cereal into a breakfast staple.



SPENCER SLAIN

1812 TIME AT THE BAR

Just after 5pm on 11 May 1812, Prime Minister Spencer Perceval was walking through the Westminster lobby when he was shot. He reportedly cried out "I am murdered!" before collapsing, becoming the **only Prime Minister to be assassinated**. The next day, an inquest was held into the actions of the attacker, aggrieved merchant John Bellingham. Everything was above board, except that this **official inquiry took place in the Rose and Crown pub** on Downing Street. Let's hope they raised a glass to the fallen PM before proceeding.



REST IN PIECES

1610 HORSING AROUND

Henri IV of France lost a lot more than time when carts in the road blocked his royal carriage as it made its way through Paris on 14 May 1610. While stopped, fanatical Catholic François Ravaillac (believing the King to be declaring a war on the Pope) stabbed Henri in the chest. **Ravaillac underwent days of torture for killing the King**, culminating in an especially gruesome execution reserved for regicides – being pulled apart by four horses.

PRECIOUS TOME

AD 868 DIG UP A DIAMOND

Dated "the 13th of the fourth moon of the ninth year of Xiantong", or 11 May AD 868, the *Diamond Sutra* may not be the first book, but it is the oldest with a definite print date. The **five-metre-long scroll**, written in Chinese and currently held by the British Library, contains lessons from the Buddha, who gave the text its name by declaring the teachings will **"cut like a diamond blade"**. Lost for centuries, the *Diamond Sutra* was found in 1900, buried in one of the 492 'Caves of a Thousand Buddhas' in north-west China, where the paper had been preserved by the dry air.



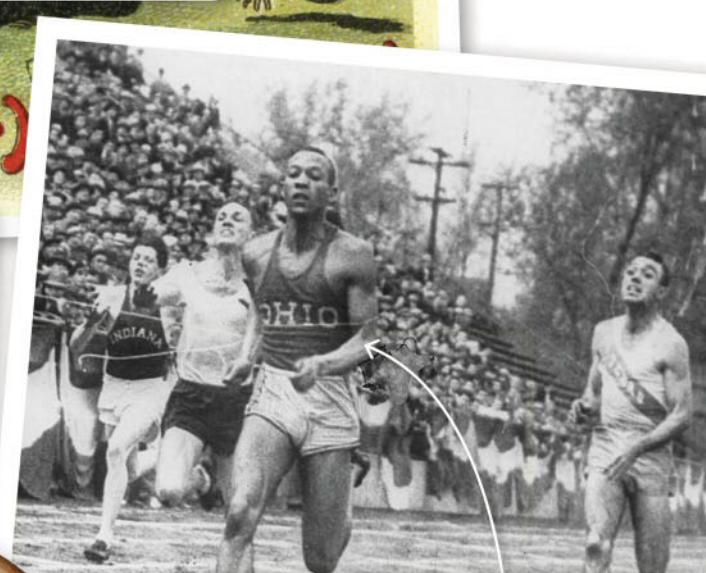
TWAIN'S PROPHECY

American wordsmith Mark Twain – born when Halley's Comet was last visible – predicted he would die during the 1910 passage. And, sure enough, he did.

COMET-H THE HOUR

1910 A PILL A DAY KEEPS HALLEY'S COMET AWAY

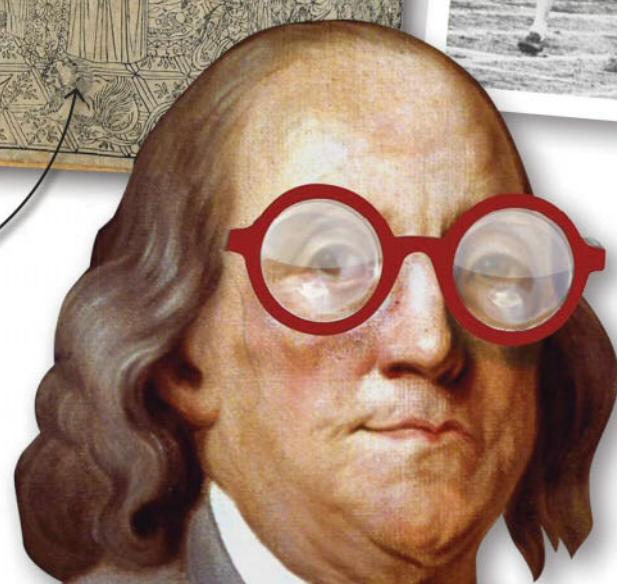
As Earth was actually going to pass through its 24-million-mile tail, the 1910 passage of Halley's Comet promised to be spectacular. Yet scare-mongering news stories that the **comet's tail could be poisonous** – exacerbated by astronomer Camille Flammarion's remarks that the gas might “possibly snuff out all life on the planet” – left some in dread of an imminent celestial catastrophe. In the build-up to the comet being at its closest in May, it wasn't only gas masks that sold in dramatic numbers. **Swindlers were able to flog off ‘anti-comet pills’**, too.



RECORD SMASHER

1935 HAPPY HOUR

At the Berlin Olympics in 1936, track-and-field speed machine Jesse Owens blew away the crowds – and undermined Hitler's belief in Aryan supremacy – by **winning four gold medals**. But that wasn't his greatest achievement. A year earlier, at the Big Ten Championships on 25 May 1935, the 21-year-old black American **broke three world records and tied a fourth**, all in less than an hour. What's more, Owens sprinted to glory in the 100-yard dash, 220-yard sprint, 220-yard hurdles and long jump while suffering from an **injured tailbone**.



WHAT A SPECTACLE

1785 DOUBLE TAKE

As well as **Founding Father, politician, writer, publisher, diplomat and scientist**, Benjamin Franklin also gave the world some ground-breaking inventions. In a letter to a friend, dated 23 May 1785, he **sketched out one of the ideas he had been working on for a while: bifocals**. He hoped split lenses would mean that, despite his failing eyesight, he could see both the food on his plate and expressions on the faces of his company at a fancy dinner. And with bifocals still in use today, the American polymath certainly caused a spectacle!

“...OH BOY”

May events that changed the world

MAY 334 BC

GREAT GRANICUS

At the Battle of the Granicus, Alexander the Great defeats the Persian Empire.

5 MAY 1260

YES WE KHAN!

On the death of his brother, Kublai is elected khan of the Mongol dynasty.

4 MAY 1471

DEATHBED OF ROSES

At Tewkesbury, Yorkist King Edward IV wins a decisive victory over the Lancastrians in the Wars of the Roses.

25 MAY 1521

ON A DIET OF WORMS

The Edict of Worms declared Protestant reformer Martin Luther to be an outlaw and banned his writings.

10 MAY 1857

INCENSED INDIANS

Sepoys serving in the East India Company decide to mutiny, leading to a year-long rebellion against British rule.

25 MAY 1961

“BEFORE THIS DECADE IS OUT...”

In a speech to Congress, US President John F Kennedy pledges to put a man on the Moon and return him safely.

28 MAY 1982

POPE ON TOUR

For the first time in more than 400 years, a Pope – John Paul II – visits Britain.

AND FINALLY...

In 1842, the Doppler Effect – which **explains why a train whistle or car horn changes pitch** as they whizz past you – was first presented. Austrian physicist Christian Doppler's principle has since been used to support the Big Bang theory of the universe.



TIME CAPSULE
MAY

THE Sun

Tuesday, May 6, 1980

10p

SPORT STARTS TODAY ON PAGE 22

THREE GUNMEN DIE IN PRINCES GATE SHOOTOUT

RESCUED!

S.A.S. heroes storm siege



WHO DARES WINS

Before the siege, the SAS came close to being disbanded, but the widespread television coverage of their raid led to a **massive rise in applicants** for the special forces unit.

embassy, save 19 hostages

CRACK Special Air Service troops stormed London's Iranian Embassy last night—and rescued 19 hostages in a lightning operation.

The commandos were sent in after terrorists holding the embassy shot dead two hostages. The assault was carried out so quickly that none of the remaining captives—including the three Britons—was killed.

Three gunmen died as they exchanged a hail of crossfire with the troops and armed police. One was seriously injured, and another was held by police.

ACTION MEN...

With guns at the ready and wearing masks to protect them against teargas, two of the SAS rescue squad move in along the balcony.

Two blasts rocked the building as the troops swung down ropes from the embassy roof and kicked in windows.

And the embassy, in Princes Gate, Knightsbridge became a raging inferno.

The freed hostages were treated for shock before being interviewed by detectives.

**'There was
a threat
to kill
one every
half hour'**

SIR DAVID McNEE

**'It shows
we aren't
prepared
to tolerate
terrorism'**

WILLIE WHITELAW

THE FULL DRAMATIC STORY: PAGES 2, 3, 4 AND 5

YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

On 6 May 1980, newspapers celebrated the end of the Iranian Embassy Siege

"THE SAS WERE INSIDE... THE EMBASSY SURROUNDED" BBC

After six tense days of waiting, it took just 15 minutes for the British Special Air Service – aka the SAS – to end the Iranian Embassy siege in a hail of bullets and explosions.

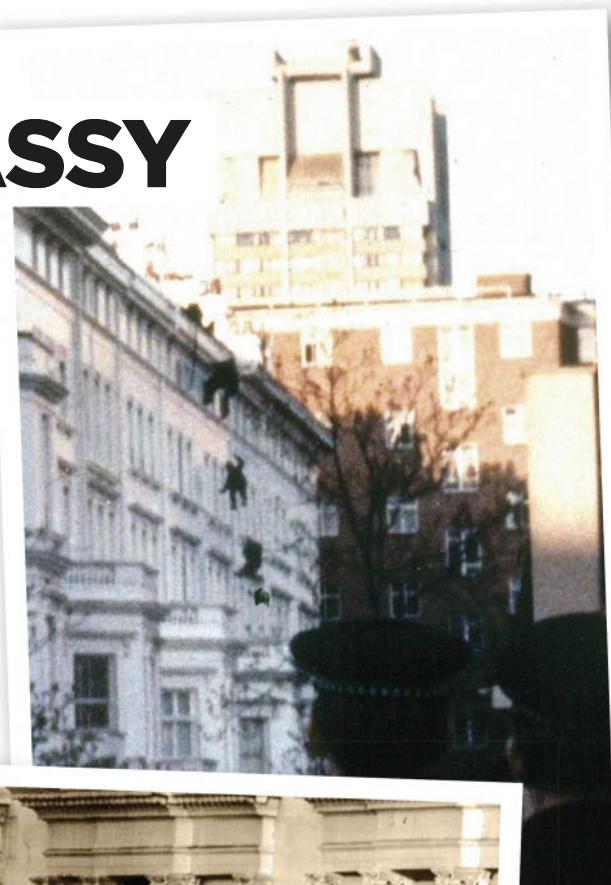
The crisis began on 30 April 1980, when six armed men stormed the embassy on Princes Gate, London, and took 26 prisoners. The Iranian gunmen – opponents of their country's new regime under religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini – demanded 91 political prisoners to be released or they would blow up the building. That same day, the SAS was deployed.

As meetings of the government's emergency committee, COBRA, and ineffective negotiations with the terrorists were carried out, the SAS made schematics of the embassy in preparation for a raid. Information was gathered from surveillance equipment that had been installed by drilling into the walls. To cover the noise, it was arranged for British Gas to drill at the same time in nearby roads.

On the sixth day – 5 May – shots were heard before the body of a hostage, Iranian Abbas Lavasani, was dumped on the front porch. Operation Nimrod, to capture the embassy, began less than an hour later. Across two SAS teams, more than 30 black-clad commandos abseiled from the roof, or broke through the windows using grenades and a sledgehammer. Explosions and gunfire echoed down the street, while millions watched on television. A quarter of an hour later, five terrorists were dead, the sixth had been arrested and 19 hostages were safe. One died after being shot in the chaos by a terrorist.

It was a rousing success for the SAS, but the siege was further proof of the dangers faced from international terrorism. ☀

SAS MOVE IN
RIGHT: Once the 'go' order is given, an SAS team abseils down the rear of the embassy
BELOW: Hostage Simon Harris is the first out as he clammers over the balcony to safety



FAILING DIPLOMACY
Relations between Iran and Britain were strained, even after the raid. It took **more than a decade before the British government paid for repairs** to the fire-destroyed embassy. It didn't open again until 1993.

1980 ALSO IN THE NEWS...

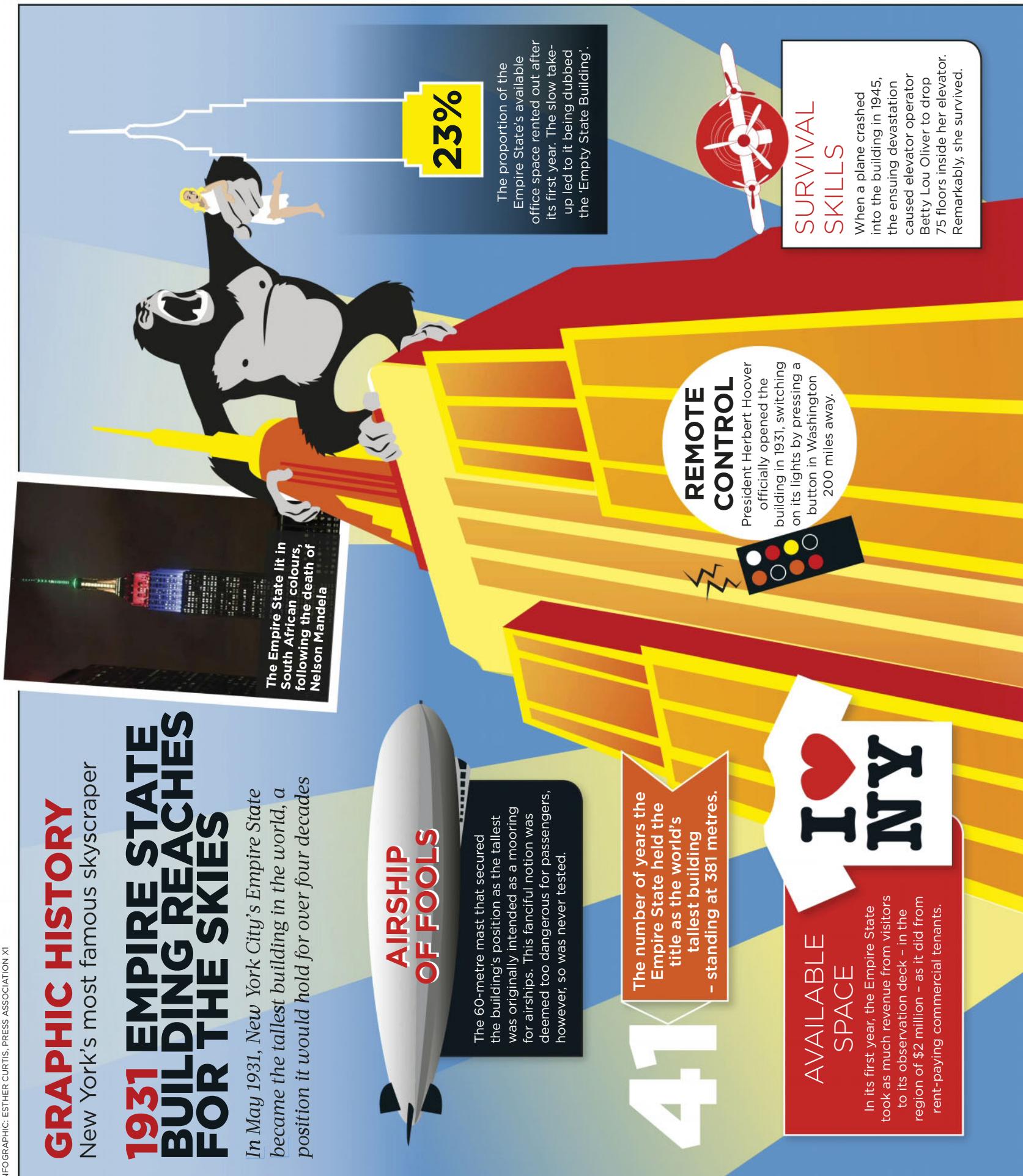
2 MAY The Pink Floyd song *Another Brick in the Wall* is banned in South Africa, after being adopted as an unofficial anthem for school boycotts protesting against apartheid.

7 MAY Having been convicted of second-degree murder in 1911, Paul Geidel (**the longest-serving American inmate**) is released from prison. He had been behind bars for 68 years and 245 days.

8 MAY The World Health Organisation declares smallpox – a "**devastating disease sweeping in epidemic form** through many countries since earliest time" – to be eradicated.



TIME CAPSULE MAY



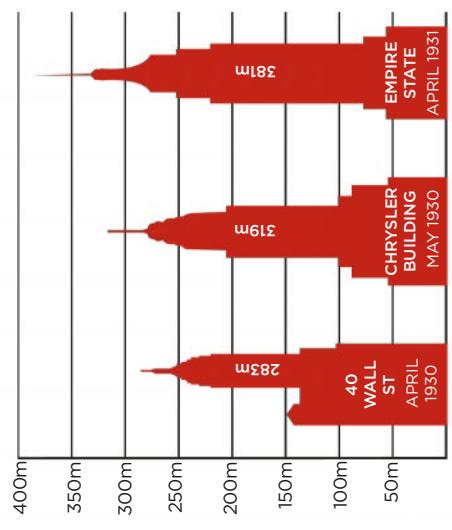
6,514

The building has no fewer than 6,514 windows. In 2010, the seven-month task of replacing them all with more energy-efficient versions was undertaken.

THE RACE TO THE SKY

40 Wall St VS Empire State

How the Empire State set new heights for New York's skyline



WHO'S THE DADDY?

The skyscraper's design was based on that of the Reynolds Building in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Every year, the Empire State's staff send a Father's Day card to those working in the older building.



IN THE BLACK

Construction of the 102-storey building came in at \$40,948,900, almost 20 per cent below the earmarked budget of \$50 million.

FALL GUY

On a sad note, the building has been the scene of a few dozen suicide attempts. The first occurred before the Empire State had even opened, when a disgruntled worker, recently made redundant, took the plunge.



AGE OF EMPIRE

Businessman John Jakob Raskob enters the race to build New York's tallest skyscraper. He doesn't know how high the under-construction Chrysler Building will be.

1931

In just 410 days, the 102-storey Empire State Building is completed, 12 days ahead of schedule. A good week could see as many as two-and-a-half storeys added.

1945

On a Saturday in July, a B-25 bomber crashes into the Empire State in low fog, killing 14. Despite damage, the building is open for business as normal come Monday morning.

1972

After 41 years, the Empire State is usurped as the tallest building by the first tower of the World Trade Center in Lower Manhattan.

1980

The building is granted its own zipcode - 10118. Only five other buildings in the US are so honoured, among them Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles and the White House.

2001

After the 9/11 attacks, the Empire State becomes Manhattan's tallest landmark again, until it's eclipsed by One World Trade Center in 2013.

1947

LIFE magazine publishes a picture of the intact body of Evelyn McHale, who jumped from the observation deck and landed on a limousine. Hers has been referred to as "the most beautiful suicide".

1976

The 50 millionth visitor to the Empire State's observation deck makes the ascent to the 86th floor.

2001

The skyscraper's design was based on that of the Reynolds Building in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Every year, the Empire State's staff send a Father's Day card to those working in the older building.



WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

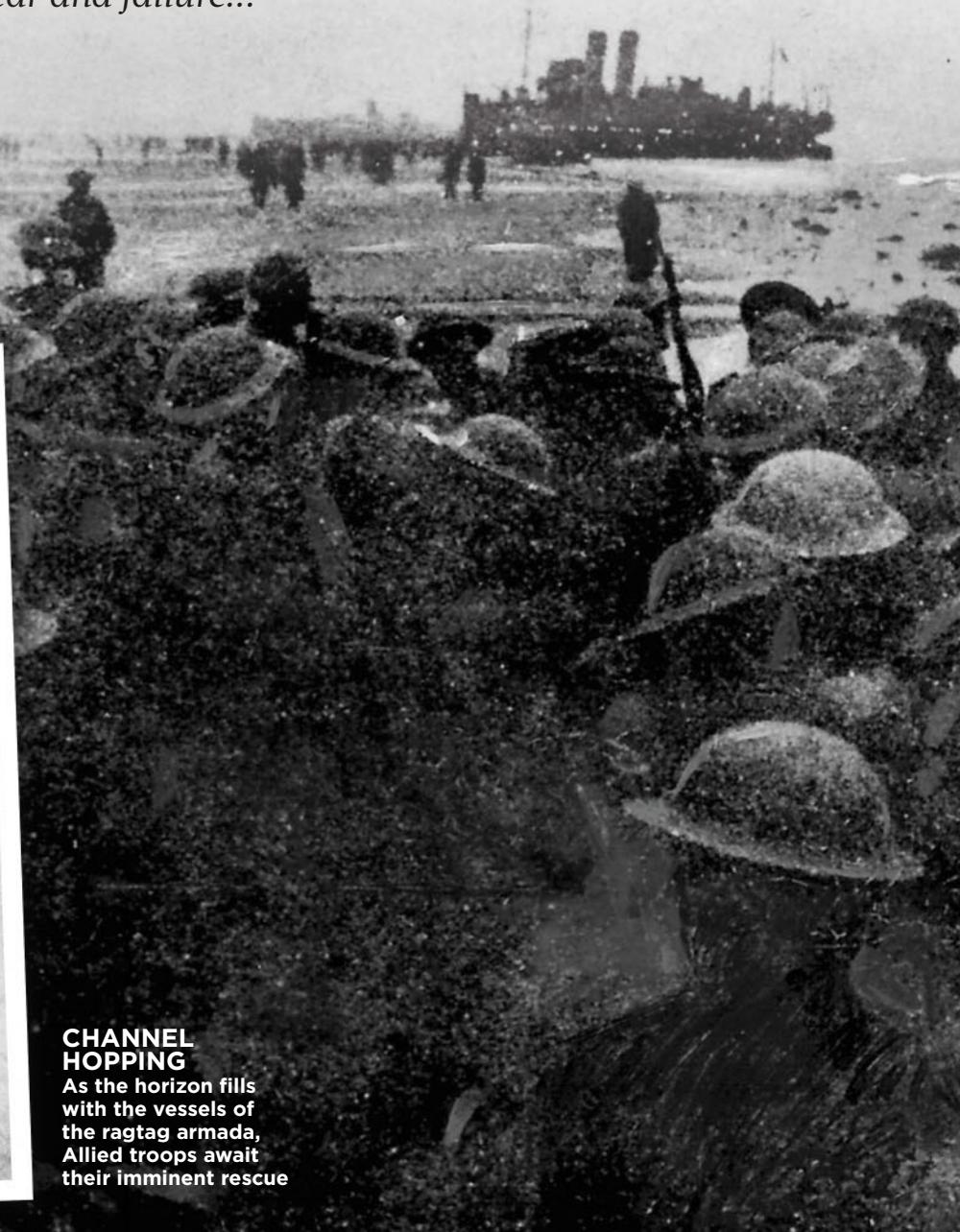
The “miracle of deliverance” that allowed the British Expeditionary Force to fight another day

1940 THE DUNKIRK EVACUATION

Today, Dunkirk is a byword for determination and togetherness against adversity. But, to the soldiers who were there in 1940, it meant fear and failure...



WADING AND WAITING
In order to reach the rescue boats, troops wade into the water and queue to board



CHANNEL HOPPING
As the horizon fills with the vessels of the ragtag armada, Allied troops await their imminent rescue

There was nowhere for the hundreds of thousands of British Expeditionary Force (BEF) and other Allied soldiers to go once on the beaches of Dunkirk in northern France. In front of them sat the English Channel, while to their rear, the superior German forces closed in. All they could do was wait to see who got to them first – the Nazis or an implausible rescue...

LITTLE SHIPS

It was May 1940 and World War II was already Adolf Hitler's to win. His armies had stormed into the Netherlands, punched through Belgium and were tightening their grip on France. The crumbling Allied forces were only saved when, on 24 May, Hitler inexplicably halted the advance.

With this respite, BEF, French and Belgian troops fell back to Dunkirk and established a last desperate line of defence.

Meanwhile, across the Channel, preparations for a mass evacuation were underway. Few were optimistic of Operation Dynamo's chances, so civilian vessels of all shapes and sizes were pressed into service.

With these 800 or so 'Little Ships of Dunkirk', soldiers could wade through the shallow waters and clamber aboard. This meant the terrifying prospect of waiting their turn, with the sounds of fighting all around, but discipline never wavered under the command of BEF supremo Lord Gort. Over the 10-day operation, the ragtag armada – from destroyers to the four-metre

fishing boat *Tamzine* – rescued an extraordinary 338,226 men.

Winston Churchill described the evacuation as a "miracle of deliverance" – but it came at a cost. Thousands still perished, ships were sunk and the brave French troops maintaining a rear-guard throughout the operation were captured. If it wasn't for RAF sorties, the casualty list would have been higher.

DUNKIRK SPIRIT

Exhausted, hungry, wounded and beaten, troops poured into the ports of southern England where they were met, not as a humiliated and retreating army, but as returning heroes. The last few weeks had been, as Churchill put it, a "colossal military disaster" – not least

because all the heavy equipment was lost, leaving Britain vulnerable to invasion.

Yet claiming any victory from defeat did wonders for morale. In his historic speech of 4 June, Churchill confirmed his place as a strong wartime leader by declaring Britain would stand against the Nazi menace: "We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills. We shall never surrender."

Under the rallying cry of the 'Dunkirk spirit', the nation endured the Battle of Britain and the Blitz. Then, almost four years to the day after the last man left Dunkirk, Allied forces were on the beaches of France once more – this time at Normandy. ◎



"We must be very careful not to assign to this deliverance the attributes of a victory. Wars are not won by evacuations"

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill

MORE MIRACLES

It wasn't just at Dunkirk that Allied troops needed urgent rescue. In total, **220,000 men were picked up at other ports**, such as Cherbourg, Brest, Saint-Malo and Saint-Nazaire.



THE EXTRAORDINARY TALE OF...

How **Charlie Chaplin** was held for ransom, posthumously

1978 CHARLIE CHAPLIN'S KIDNAPPED COFFIN FOUND AFTER 11 WEEKS

Two men hoped to get rich by stealing the body of a movie legend, but they should have known you can't beg money from a Tramp...

Charlie Chaplin knew (understatement alert) how to entertain, and exactly what it took to make people laugh. The British actor/director's career amusing audiences spanned eight decades – beginning before he was ten years old when he joined a clog-dancing act in 1897.

From the vaudeville stage, via a popular spell in pantomime, Chaplin eased into silent film in his 20s. It was during only his second appearance in front of the camera that he introduced his now-immortal cinematic character the Tramp, a creation that left moving-picture patrons gasping for breath during dozens of his two-reeler movies.

In the golden age of silent cinema, Chaplin had the Midas touch. Even in the burgeoning world of the 'talkies', the silent superstar found his voice with his spot-on parody of Adolf Hitler in 1940's *The Great Dictator*, for which his signature moustache came in handy.

It seems fitting that this man could have one last piece of entertainment – strange and slightly morbid though it was

– to offer the world, more than two months after his death...

MISSING COFFIN

Having suffered from strokes during the 1960s and '70s, a frail and wheelchair-bound Chaplin spent his final years living with his fourth wife, Oona, by Lake Geneva in Switzerland. Then, on Christmas Day 1977, he died in his sleep at his home in Corsier-sur-Vevey, aged 88. Chaplin was laid to rest a few days later in the local cemetery, but that rest lasted only a couple of months.

On 2 March 1978, police phoned the Chaplin mansion to inform 51-year-old Oona that there had been a burglary in the middle of the night and that her husband's coffin was missing. One of the first on the scene at the graveyard was criminal prosecutor Jean-Daniel Tenthorey. "It looked like only a hole," he said. "A big hole, with earth on each side, and the cross of wood was put on one side." Not long afterwards, there was another phone call, this time from a man claiming responsibility for the body-snatching. Through a thick Eastern European accent,

he said he had a photo of the coffin to prove he had it, before demanding 1 million Swiss francs (£1.5 million today) for its return.

RIDICULOUS AND BOTCHED

As Chaplin was no stranger to controversy earlier in his life, having been suspected of being a communist at the time of the House Un-American Activities Committee witch-hunts, rumours circulated about the theft. Had anti-Semites desecrated his grave, angry that a supposedly Jewish person could be buried in a Christian cemetery? Or had neo-Nazis stolen the body in retaliation for his political satire, *The Great Dictator*? Or was it just a snatch-and-grab to make quick cash?

STARRING CHAPLIN

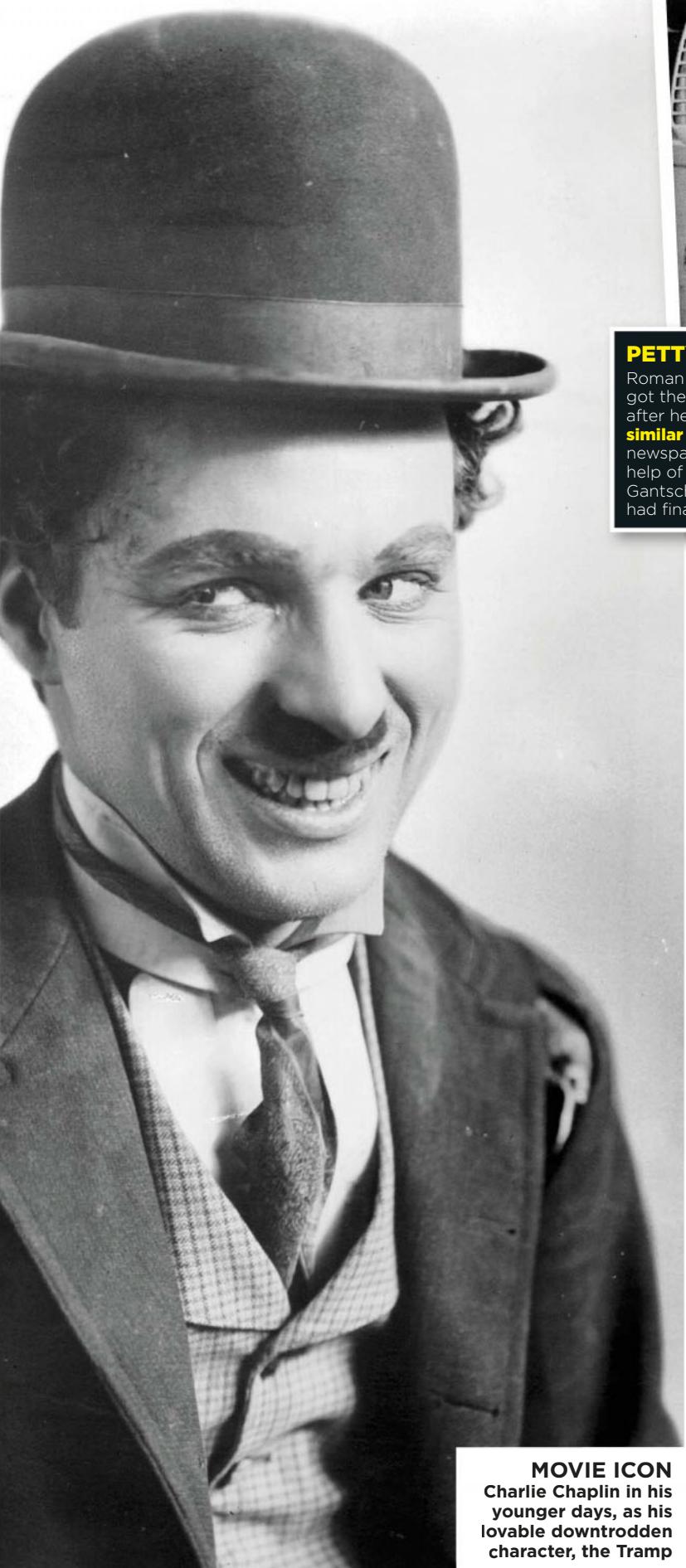
Chaplin's son Eugene and granddaughter briefly appear in a French crime caper based on the theft of the coffin, entitled ***The Price of Fame*** (2014).

"Charlie would have thought it rather ridiculous."

Oona Chaplin, Charlie's wife, saw the lighter side of the 1978 grave robbing



Charlie's coffin was found buried in a cornfield close to the Chaplin home



MOVIE ICON
Charlie Chaplin in his younger days, as his lovable downtrodden character, the Tramp

Grave-robbers Wardas (with his head covered) and Ganev are led to court



PETTY CRIMINAL

Roman Wardas reportedly got the idea for the theft after he [read about a similar incident](#) in an Italian newspaper. He enlisted the help of fellow mechanic Gantscho Ganev who also had financial problems.



Chaplin aged 60 in 1959, with his wife Oona and seven of their children. They had another before he died in 1977

Whatever the motive, Oona (with the support of her lawyers) refused to pay the ransom. Despite threats against the youngest of Chaplin's children, she never considered the strange ordeal as too serious, acknowledging that "Charlie would have thought it rather ridiculous".

The weeks went by, however, and the still-unknown thieves persisted, going so far as to demand that the Chaplins' butler bring the cash to a drop-off point in the family's Rolls Royce. Spotting an opportunity, the police arranged for an officer to pose as the butler and make a fake drop. But the sting operation was botched when the local postman, who didn't recognise the driver of the Rolls, followed the car, prompting the police to mistakenly arrest him.

REST IN PEACE

The rather red-faced police redeemed themselves in May. Expecting another call from the thieves, they not only tapped the Chaplins' phone, but assigned officers to keep tabs on some 200 telephone boxes in the area. It worked a treat and, 11 weeks after the grave-robbing, the police finally had a man in custody, 24-year-

old Pole Roman Wardas. His accomplice, a Bulgarian named Gantscho Ganev, was picked up later. Wardas – suffering from financial difficulties and hoping to make some money with the hare-brained scheme – directed the police to a cornfield a mile from the Chaplin mansion and told them where to dig. The 300-pound oak coffin was intact.

As Wardas was judged to be the mastermind of the crime, his sentence was four years, while Ganev, 38, received an 18-month suspended sentence as he was only the 'muscle man'. Both seemed sincerely contrite and even wrote to Oona to apologise, which she accepted. Chaplin's son Eugene later revealed that his mother had admitted, "In a way, it's a shame that we found him!"

Meanwhile, Chaplin's body was re-buried – although this time, the coffin was encased in concrete to make sure he could properly rest in peace this time. ☺



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REVEALED**

TRAVEL OFFER – led by Julian Humphrys

Harvington Hall



Charles II – Civil War & the Great Escape

With medieval historian Julian Humphrys and Prof Ronald Hutton

16 June & 15 September 2016 - 3 days from £319pp

Day by day itinerary

Day 1: Arrive independently at the Hilton from 15.00. This evening there will be a welcome reception, private dinner with wine and talk from Julian Humphrys - 'The escape of Charles II'.

Day 2: We start the story with a stop at King Charles House, where he lodged before the disastrous battle and on to a guided tour of Worcester Cathedral, from where the king viewed the day's fateful events. After lunch in the Chapter house (included) we visit the Commandery Museum - Charles II's headquarters during the battle - and a short walk to Fort Royal Hill, which was captured by Parliamentary forces, who turned the Royalist guns to fire on Worcester. Next is a guided tour of Harvington Hall, which has the finest surviving series of priest holes in England. After dinner, historian Professor Hutton will give a talk - 'Charles II - good king or bad king?'.

Day 3: Visit and guided tour of Boscobel House, where Charles sought refuge, hiding first in a tree, (now known as The Royal Oak), then a priest-hole in the attic. On 7th September Charles II and his entourage made it to Moseley Old Hall, home of Thomas Whitgreave, and the location for your final visit, lunch and a guided tour. Return to the hotel for approximately 17.30.



Boscobel House

Where you stay

Hilton Bromsgrove

Four-star hotel located just off the M5 with restaurant, bar, fitness centre, swimming pool, free parking and comfortable modern bedrooms.

Included in the price

- Two nights' bed and breakfast at the four-star Hilton Bromsgrove
- Welcome reception and first night private three-course dinner with wine
- Second night dinner in the hotel restaurant
- All talks, tours and admissions
- Coach touring itinerary and tour manager throughout

NB: The tour starts and finishes at the hotel – transport to and from Bromsgrove is NOT included.

Extra night's accommodation and single rooms available at a supplement.

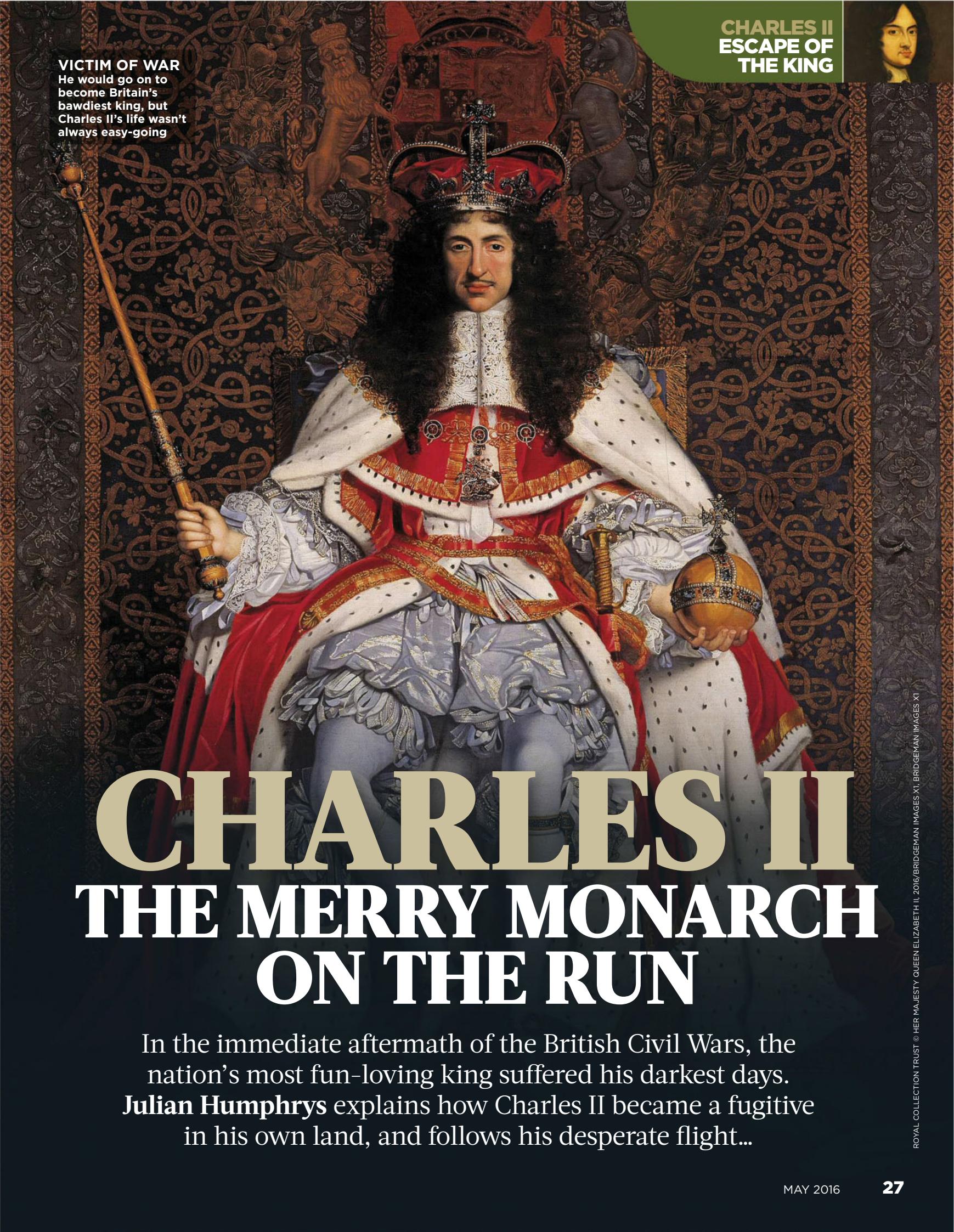
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VICTIM OF WAR
He would go on to become Britain's bawdiest king, but Charles II's life wasn't always easy-going



CHARLES II THE MERRY MONARCH ON THE RUN

In the immediate aftermath of the British Civil Wars, the nation's most fun-loving king suffered his darkest days. Julian Humphrys explains how Charles II became a fugitive in his own land, and follows his desperate flight...



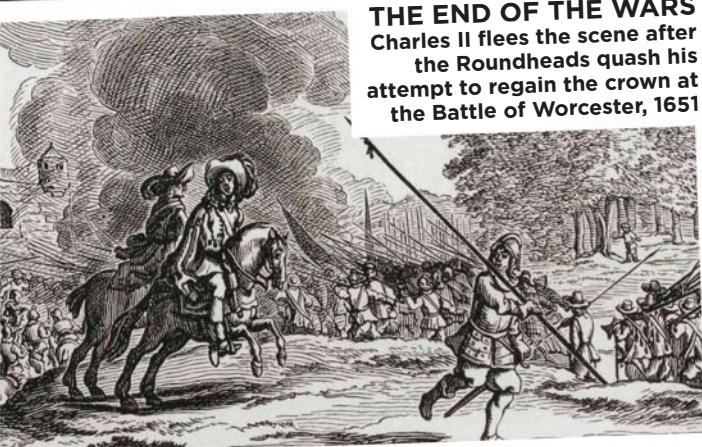
CHARLES II ESCAPE OF THE KING

'ARBOURING A FUGITIVE

The King dozes off on a fellow escapee's shoulder while hiding from Parliamentarian troops in a tree



THE END OF THE WARS
Charles II flees the scene after the Roundheads quash his attempt to regain the crown at the Battle of Worcester, 1651



BRITISH CIVIL WARS NEED TO KNOW

WHAT In the mid-17th century, Britain found itself plunged into civil war. The nation saw the temporary abolition of the monarchy, as it went from kingdom to republic, and back again.

WHO The driving forces of the Civil Wars were the **Parliamentarians** (often called Roundheads) ultimately led by Oliver Cromwell, and the **Royalists** (or Cavaliers), led at first by Charles I and later, Charles II.

WHY The causes of the wars were numerous and complex, and included **religious divides** (Church of England v Presbyterians), **politics** (Charles I's style of rule angered many) and regional tensions.

WHEN There were three wars. The first, which saw Charles I defeated, ran from **1642-46**; the second lasted from **1648-49**; and the third began after Charles I's execution, raging from **1650-51**. It was after his defeat in the third war that Charles II had to flee England.

OUTCOME Cromwell was named **Lord Protector** in 1653 and he ruled England, Scotland and Ireland until his death in 1658, while Charles II lived in exile. When the King returned to claim the throne in 1660, it ushered a new age: the **Restoration Era** (see page 31).

When Charles II fled Worcester after his defeat there in September 1651, his chances of avoiding capture were, on the face of it, not good. The entire Parliamentarian army was looking for him, while posters bearing his description offered a staggering £1,000 (at least £75,000 today) reward for his arrest. Being tall and swarthy, he would have had great difficulty in trying to blend into a crowd, and any attempt to disguise him as a servant would be hampered by the fact that his privileged background had given him little idea of how to carry out menial tasks. That he did manage to escape was largely down to the loyalty and courage of those he sought refuge with (many of whom were Catholic), his own cool-headedness and quick-thinking, as well as a large slice of luck.

Charles was born on 29 May 1630, the eldest surviving son of Charles I, and was 12 when the British Civil Wars began. Two years later, he was appointed nominal Royalist commander-in-chief in western England but, following Parliament's victory in 1646, he went into exile. First he stayed with his mother in Paris and later in the

Netherlands where, in 1649, he learnt of his father's execution. Charles also learned that he had been proclaimed King of Scotland in Edinburgh – on one condition. At the time Scotland was Presbyterian, and Charles would have to commit to imposing the Scottish religion in England. Seeing it as his only chance to regain the crown, he agreed to the terms, sailed for Scotland and was crowned at Scone in January 1651.

On 31 July, he led a largely Scottish army into England. The invasion was a disaster. The Royalist uprising that Charles had been banking on never materialised and, on 3 September 1651, Cromwell caught up with him at Worcester. Charles's outnumbered forces were no match for the Roundheads and, despite a desperate charge led by the young King himself, they were defeated. Charles was now a fugitive, with a huge price on his head.

LONDON CALLING

As Cromwell's troops poured into Worcester, Charles rode out of St Martin's Gate and was soon fleeing north, accompanied by a number of officers who had survived the battle. Most wanted to make for Scotland, but Charles decided his best bet was to go to London.

At about 3am, with Charles Giffard, a local Catholic, and his servant Francis Yates (who was later executed for his part in helping the King) guiding them, the party headed for Boscobel. This was a house about 50 miles north of Worcester that belonged to the Giffard family. As it was surrounded by thick woods, it seemed an ideal place in which to hole up.

In the end, the party didn't go to Boscobel but stopped at White Ladies, another Giffard property a short walk away. As such a large group of fugitives would draw attention, Charles's followers rode on, leaving the King in the care of the Penderel family – the tenants at White Ladies. They helped cut Charles's hair, dirtied his face and supplied him with some plain clothes and a pair of ill-fitting shoes. Dressed as a woodman, Charles left the house and spent a cold, wet and hungry day in a nearby coppice. His only comfort was a dish of scrambled eggs brought by Elizabeth Yates, a sister-in-law of the Penderels.

Learning that the road to London had been barred, Charles decided to make for Wales, perhaps in the hope of escaping by ship from Swansea. The plan was to head for Madeley Hall, the home of Catholic Francis Woolf and, from there, cross the Severn River.

After dark, Richard Penderel took Charles to his house, Hobball Grange. They ate before setting off for Madeley on foot. It wasn't an easy journey.

The King's borrowed shoes were causing him agony and at one stage he announced he could walk no further. It took all of Penderel's powers of tact and persuasion to keep him going. Despite a worrying moment when the pair were challenged by a miller, they eventually reached Madeley.

Woolf was initially unenthusiastic about hiding anybody – the area was teaming with Roundheads – but when he learned the identity of the fugitive he came around. He hid Charles in a hayloft and found him food, money and a new pair of shoes.

But the reports weren't good. All the crossings of the Severn were guarded and there was no way of getting to Wales. The decision was taken to return – on foot – to Boscobel, where one of Penderel's brothers was caretaker.

As they approached the house, Richard Penderel went ahead to check that the coast was clear. He returned with another Royalist officer, Colonel William Careless, who had taken refuge there after Worcester. The three went

1,000
The sum, in pounds, offered for Charles II's capture

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON?

A TALE OF TWO KINGS

Charles II and his father could hardly have appeared more different. While Charles I was short, stuttering and Scottish, Charles II was tall ('above two yards high' according to his 1651 wanted poster), urbane and decidedly Mediterranean in looks – Britain's numerous 'Black Boy' pubs are named after him.

The two kings were also very different in character. Whereas Charles II enjoyed the company of numerous mistresses, Charles I appears to have remained completely faithful to his wife, Henrietta Maria. More importantly, whereas the younger Charles was witty and affable, the elder was shy, serious and a poor man-manager. Charles I seems to have been someone who tended either to go overboard in his affection for those he felt were loyal, or to form strong dislikes towards those he thought opposed his divine right to rule. Charles I refused to compromise, believing he had the right to do whatever was necessary to preserve his authority. That attitude would lead both to war and, ultimately, his execution.

Charles II, by stark contrast, was deeply cynical and utterly pragmatic, rarely prepared to risk everything on a point of principle. On return from exile he steered clear of mass reprisals and wooed his father's old

into the house where Joan Penderel gave them bread, cheese and small beer before bathing the King's blistered feet.

THE ROYAL OAK

Knowing the house was likely to be searched, Careless suggested that he and the King hide in a nearby oak tree. They climbed a ladder into its branches where the thick leaves hid them from sight. A party of soldiers soon arrived to search the house and the woods. Charles had slept little over the previous three nights and he spent part of his time in the tree dozing with his head on Careless's arm.

The Roundheads eventually departed and, when darkness fell, the pair came down. After dining on mutton (rustled from a nearby farm), Charles spent an uncomfortable night in one of Boscobel's cramped priest holes.

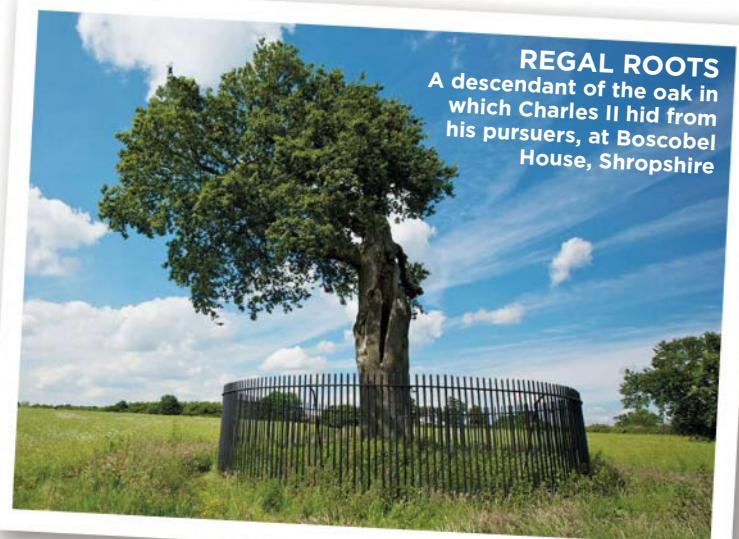


MASTER OF HIS OWN DEMISE
Sober, obstinate and introverted, many historians believe Charles I was responsible for his fate

opponents by giving them more power than his friends. He abandoned attempts to introduce religious toleration for Catholics and non-conformists when faced with Parliamentary opposition, and connived at the repression of both. He even kept his religious convictions to himself, waiting until he was on his deathbed before he converted to Catholicism.

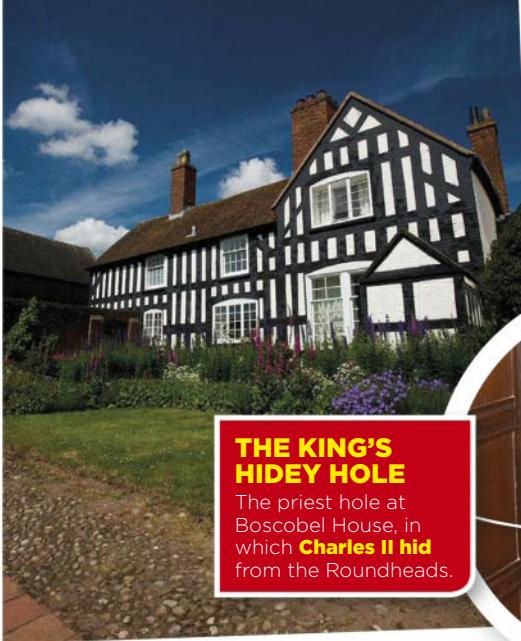
He took subsidies from the French to reduce his reliance on Parliament, played his ministers off against each other and was quite prepared to let them take the blame for failures in policy. For example, he allowed his long-term loyal adviser, the Earl of Clarendon, to be exiled following defeat in the Dutch War of 1665-67.

Late in the evening on 7 September, Charles and Careless left Boscobel for Moseley Old Hall in Warwickshire, the home of another Catholic, Thomas Whitegreave. They were joined by the five Penderel brothers, one of whom



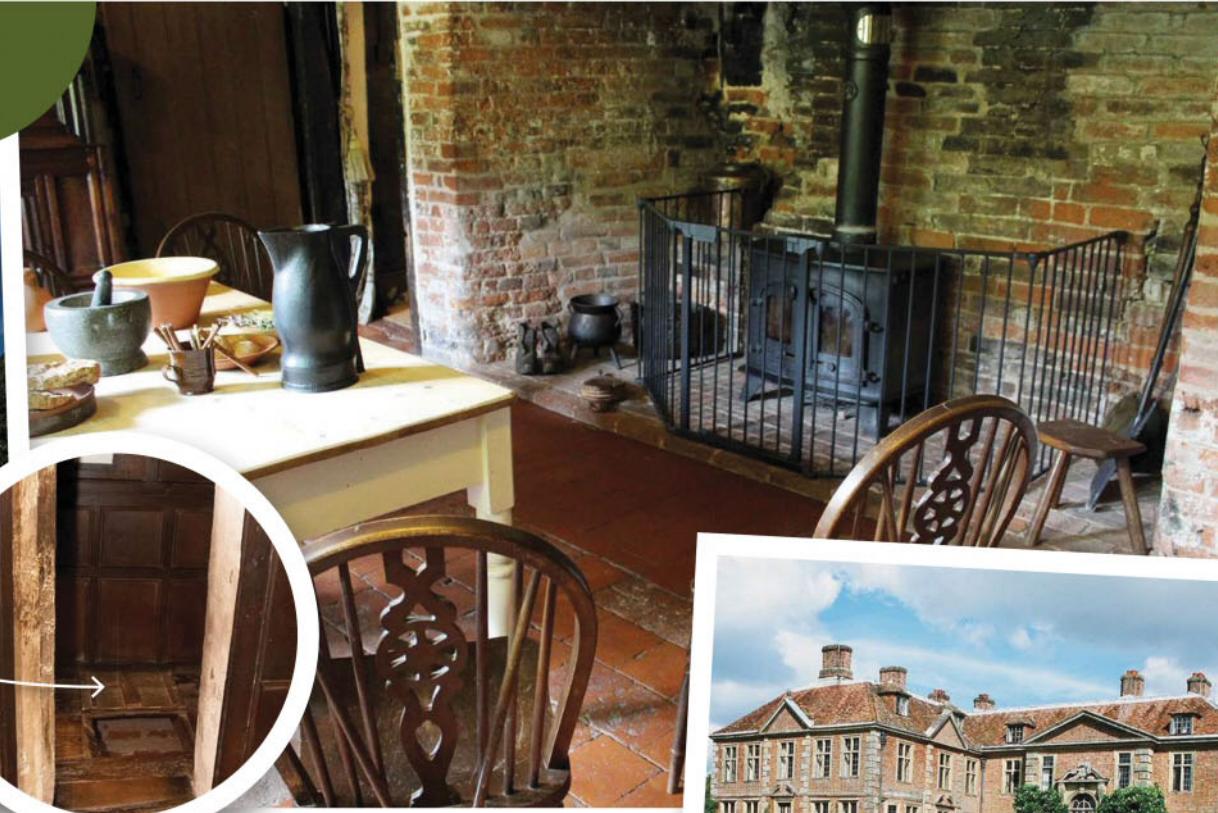


CHARLES II ESCAPE OF THE KING



THE KING'S HIDEY HOLE

The priest hole at Boscobel House, in which **Charles II hid** from the Roundheads.



gave Charles an old mill horse to ride. It made painfully slow progress, causing Humphrey Penderel to quip that it was hardly surprising "For it had the weight of three kingdoms upon its back".

At Moseley, Charles was fed and given dry clothes, and this time the Whitgreave family's priest, Father John Huddleston, bathed his blistered feet. Charles spent the next two days at Moseley, sleeping in a bed for the first time since Worcester. But, on the afternoon of 9 September, danger arrived. A party of soldiers appeared, accusing Whitgreave of fighting for the

by sea. On learning that Charles had failed to reach Wales, he decided that the King should take his place.

When Charles reached Bentley and met Wilmot, he was given a new set of clothes and adopted the alias of William Jackson. A small travelling group then set out, with Charles riding the same horse as Jane Lane. Wilmot refused to wear a disguise and rode openly ahead of the party saying that if he was challenged he would claim to be out hunting. Whether this was a clever decoy or an act of foolish bravado is open to debate.

SAFE HOUSES
L-R: **Boscobel House in Shropshire, today run by English Heritage; Moseley Old Hall, Warwickshire, now in the National Trust's care; the private home of Heale House, Wiltshire**



meat in front of the fire. Predictably, the King had little idea what to do but, when the cook took him to task, he excused his clumsiness by claiming that his family were so poor they rarely ate meat.

DUE SOUTH

Arriving at Abbots Leigh the following day, they were greeted with unwelcome news – there were no ships going to France for a month. Charles and Wilmot decided to make for the south coast, travelling to Trent, near Sherborne, to the home of another Royalist, Francis Wyndham. The King spent several days there while Wyndham and Wilmot looked for a boat to take him across the Channel. On one occasion, he heard the locals mistakenly celebrating his death.

On 22 September, Charles set out for Charmouth where a boat had been hired to take him to France. His party consisted of Wilmot, Wyndham and Wyndham's cousin Juliana Coningsby, with Charles again playing the role of a servant. Their cover story, should they be stopped, was that Wilmot and Juliana were eloping.

They duly arrived at Charmouth, but the promised vessel failed to materialise.

Concerned that something had gone wrong, the royal party left Charmouth and

"With the King hiding in a priest hole, the soldiers were convinced to leave"

King at Worcester. With Charles hiding in a priest hole, Whitgreave convinced his accusers that he'd taken no part in the battle. Eventually, they left.

WESTWARD BOUND

Just after midnight on 10 September, Charles headed to Bentley Hall near Walsall, the home of a Royalist colonel, John Lane. A few days earlier, Charles's friend and fellow fugitive Henry Wilmot had learned that Lane's sister, Jane, had obtained a permit from the military for herself and a servant to travel to Abbots Leigh, Somerset, to visit a pregnant friend. As Abbots Leigh is near the key port of Bristol, Wilmot saw this as a chance to flee. He planned to disguise himself as Jane's servant and then escape

At Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, they found that Charles and Jane's horse had shed a shoe. Charles, playing the role of the servant, took the horse to a blacksmith. The King later told the diarist Samuel Pepys that, when he told the blacksmith that Charles Stuart deserved to be hanged for bringing in the Scots, the labourer replied that he spoke like an honest man!

They spent that night at a house in Long Marston in Warwickshire, where, in his role as a servant, Charles was put to work in the kitchen. He was told to wind the jack to roast



WHITE KNIGHT
The daring noble Jane Lane, who aided the King's to escape

THE RESTORATION TRANSITION

THE TIMES THEY WERE A CHANGIN'

The return of the King led to a period of great change in London – though not all of it was intended. The Great Fire of 1666 destroyed over 13,000 houses and 87 churches. It took decades to rebuild the city. Although complexities of land ownership meant that the basic layout of the capital remained unchanged, the new buildings were very different to the old. Houses now had to be faced with brick not wood, and medieval churches were rebuilt in a new classical style, notably by Christopher Wren.

The Restoration also marked a departure from the Puritan repression of the Commonwealth. Back came maypoles, horse racing and the theatre – bawdy comedies being particularly popular. For the first time women, such as Nell Gwyn (see page 33), took to the stage. 'Breeches roles', where female curves were

accentuated by tight-fitting breeches, were particularly popular with the largely male audience. Some plays, like Dryden's *The Rival Ladies*, went further and actually called upon the actresses to unbutton their doublets and reveal their breasts.

More seriously, London became an important centre for scientific enquiry. Men like Robert Boyle, Robert Hooke and Christopher Wren all made significant contributions in the field and, in November 1660, the Royal Society – a forum for scientific debate and experiment – was founded. Soon 'natural philosophy', as science was then called, became a fashionable pursuit for the middle classes and many people bought telescopes and microscopes to see for themselves what these scientists were describing.

Meanwhile, mathematician and physicist Isaac Newton was working away in

Cambridge. In 1687, the Royal Society published his *Principia*. Describing the action of gravity, it's one of the most influential books of all time.



NEW LIFE

After the Great Fire, city planners rebuilt the city in grand, classical style. St Paul's Cathedral's iconic dome was just one of London's impressive new features

INFERNO FINANCE

It took around 50 years to rebuild the city after the Great Fire, at a cost of some £10 million (nearly £1.5 billion in today's money).



RESTORATION MAN
Physicist, mathematician, astronomer, alchemist and theologian, Sir Isaac Newton



LONDON'S BURNING
Fire tears through the capital for nearly five days in September 1666



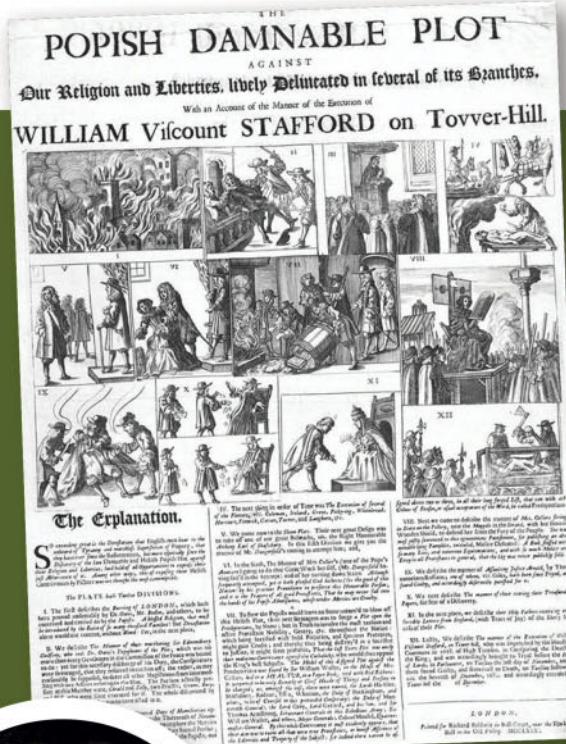
CHARLES II ESCAPE OF THE KING

POLITICS AND RELIGION HEIR HEADACHES

Charles' wife, Catherine of Braganza, never bore the King a child. This meant that his brother James, a Catholic, was heir to the throne. Many of the royal court (including Catherine and some of Charles's mistresses) were also Catholics and, by the 1670s, concern grew that the monarchy was drifting towards Catholicism and arbitrary government.

Anti-Catholic feeling reached a crescendo at the end of the decade, with the 'Popish Plot' – a completely fabricated claim that there was a Catholic conspiracy to topple the government. It led to the executions of 35 innocent people before it was finally discredited. From 1679, Charles was faced by a concerted Parliamentary campaign to exclude James from the succession. It was the beginning of the split between Tories (supporters of the Church of England and the divine right of the monarchy to govern) and the Whigs (who favoured religious toleration – for Protestants who didn't conform to the established Church – and a less authoritarian monarchy).

Charles was prepared to compromise over many things, but not on the matter of succession. It took all of his political acumen to ride out the storm. Charles and his supporters unleashed a propaganda campaign attacking his Whig opponents. He tried to convince his subjects that the Whigs wanted another civil war, and that they posed a greater threat to liberty than James. He



RELIGIOUS CLASH
ABOVE: Viscount Stafford was one of many innocent people executed because of the fictitious 'Popish Plot'. LEFT: Charles II's controversial heir, the Catholic James II (reigned 1685-88)

made the most of the fact that those who wanted to exclude James could not agree who to replace him with. He also secured financial support from France so that he was no longer dependant on his Parliaments for money.

In 1681, he dissolved his last Parliament (which he cleverly held in traditionally Royalist Oxford) and ruled alone, ushering in a far-from merry period where religious non-conformists, especially Quakers, were brutally repressed, both in England and Scotland.

headed east to Bridport. The town was crawling with soldiers, gathering for an assault on Royalist Jersey.

Charles brazened it out, pushing his way through the troops outside the town's best inn. The King even convinced a worker at the inn, who was sure he recognised him, that they had once met when he was a servant in Exeter.

The next morning they set off back to Trent. It was not a moment too soon. Suspicions had been raised in both Charmouth and Bridport, and a troop of Roundheads missed them by minutes.

Charles and his party spent the night in an inn at the village of Broadwindsor but, no sooner had the they gone upstairs, than a detachment of soldiers turned up and demanded accommodation. The party was trapped on the top floor. Fortunately, a camp follower went into labour – this caused a major row with the village authorities who were worried that the child would be left in their care as a pauper. As a result, the distracted soldiers left the inn at dawn, without ever wondering who had been upstairs.

On the evening of 24 September, the King returned to Trent. Charles and Wilmot were finally able to leave Trent on 6 October and make their way, via Heale House (near Salisbury), Stonehenge and Hampshire to Sussex where a Captain Tattershall had been paid to take them on his coal boat from Shoreham to France. On 16 October, after having been on the run for six weeks, they landed at Fécamp in Normandy.

FRENCH LEAVE
Following his escape, Charles rejoined his mother in Paris. Surrounded by a group of quarrelsome advisers, who were unable to agree on what to do next,

LOVE AND MARRIAGE

Charles II had at least 15 mistresses and, although the country welcomed an end to the restrictive Puritanism of Cromwell's Commonwealth, the debauchery of his court soon drew unfavourable comment. Even diarist Samuel Pepys, who was decidedly no prude, noted the "swearing, drinking and whoring" that went on there.

Some complained about the cost (many of Charles's offspring were given substantial allowances), many believed it distracted the King from his duties, while others thought that disasters like the plague and the Great Fire of London (see *The Times They Were A Changin'*, page 31) were a sign of God's disapproval.



THE QUEEN

CATHERINE OF BRAGANZA (1638-1705)

Married Charles in 1662. She had three miscarriages and bore no heirs. As a Catholic, she was in some danger during the anti-Catholic hysteria of the late 1670s (see *Heir Headaches*, above) but Charles protected her.



'THE BEAUTIFUL STRUMPET'

LUCY WALTER (1630-58) *MISTRESS 1648-49*

Charles's lover while he was in exile, Walter was described as "brown, beautiful, bold but insipid". Their son, the Duke of Monmouth was considered, a potential heir by those who wanted to exclude Charles's brother from the throne.



'THE UNCROWNED QUEEN'

BARBARA PALMER, COUNTESS OF CASTLEMAINE (1640-1709) *MISTRESS 1660-70*

A great beauty and the King's favourite mistress in the 1660s. Hugely politically influential, she bore Charles five children and was created Duchess of Cleveland in 1670.



RETURN OF THE KING
A party atmosphere accompanies Charles as he rides back into Whitehall on his 30th birthday

"Charles landed at Dover on 25 May amid wild celebrations"

he spent a gloomy three years relying on the charity of the French government.

By 1654, Cromwell had begun negotiating an alliance with the French, so Charles and his entourage were obliged to leave Paris, eventually moving to Bruges. During Charles's exile, three serious attempts to incite Royalist uprisings took place in Britain: one in Scotland from 1653–54, one in the west country in 1655 and one in Cheshire in 1659. All were easily suppressed. It was only after Cromwell's death, in 1658, that the restoration of the monarchy became a possibility.

Cromwell's son Richard succeeded his father as Lord Protector, but he lacked his dad's abilities. A bitter power struggle arose between republicans and various

army officers, as England was plunged once more into political turmoil. For the majority of the country, the only answer appeared to be the return of the monarchy – a view shared by General George Monck, who marched on London to provide the military muscle to make it happen.

On 8 May 1660, Charles was acknowledged King by the newly-elected Convention Parliament and invited to return home. He landed at Dover on 25 May amid wild celebrations and made a triumphal entry into London on 29 May. It was his 30th birthday.

Charles would often prove to be a callous and cynical ruler during his 25-year reign, but he never forgot those who had stood by him during his flight.

43

The number of days the King spent on the run

Many of his escape aides were given gifts and some of the families who helped him were awarded perpetual pensions. The descendants of Richard Penderel still receive theirs to this day. ☺

GET HOOKED

VISIT

Boscobel House and the Royal Oak in Shropshire are in the care of English Heritage. The ruins of White Ladies Priory, another of Charles's hiding places, are a short walk away.

READ

Richard Ollard's *The Escape of Charles II* (Robinson, 2002) is a lively account of Charles's six weeks on the run while *Samuel Pepys: Plague, Fire, Revolution* (Thames and Hudson, 2015), the companion book to the National Maritime Museum's recent exhibition of the same name, offers a brilliant snapshot of life in Restoration London.



'THE MOST IMPUDENT SLUT'

Moll Davis (1651-1708)
MISTRESS 1667-1673

Actress in the Duke's Theatre Company. Davis bore the King a daughter, Mary, who married the Earl of Derwentwater. Pepys liked Davis's dancing; his wife was less impressed, describing her as "the most impudent slut in the world".



'THE PROTESTANT WHORE'

ELEANOR 'NELL' GWYN (1651-87)
MISTRESS 1668-85

Actress at the King's Theatre. Charles loved her informality and she bore him two sons, both given titles. Referred to herself as "the protestant whore" to distinguish her from the Catholic de Keroualle (right).



'FUBS'

LOUISE DE KEROUALLE, DUCHESS OF PORTSMOUTH (1649-1734)
MISTRESS 1671-85

A French aristocrat who informally represented Louis XIV's interests at court. Charles called her 'Fubs' (Chubby). She gave Charles a son, later made Duke of Richmond.



'THE ITALIAN WHORE'

HORTENSE MANCINI, DUCHESS OF MAZARIN (1646-99)
MISTRESS 1676-77

Mancini came to England in 1675 to escape an unhappy marriage. She briefly supplanted Louise de Keroualle as Charles's favourite mistress.



'THE ONE WHO SAID NO'

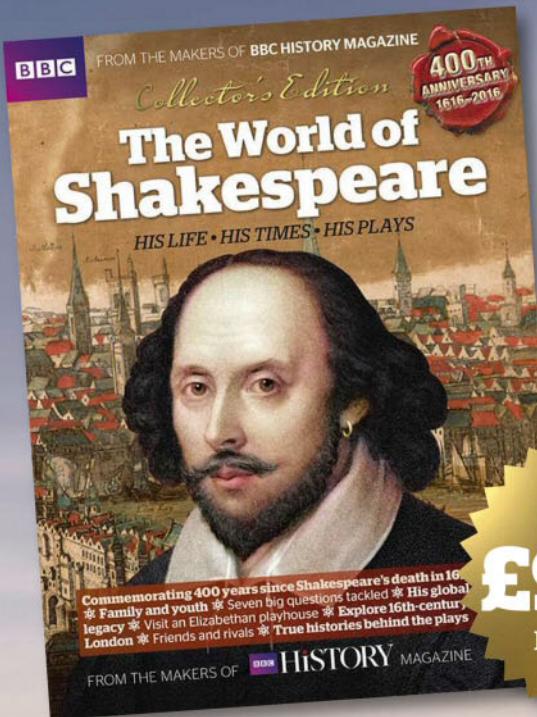
FRANCES STUART, DUCHESS OF RICHMOND (1647-1702)
MISTRESS - NEVER

Stuart caught Charles's eye when she became Maid of Honour to Queen Catherine, but she refused to become the King's mistress. She is best known as the model for Britannia on British coins.

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THE LEGEND OF TROY

Forbidden love, bloody battles, that wooden horse...

The story of Troy is an enduring one, but how true is it? It's time to sift fact from fiction



GIFT HORSE

According to Homer's *Iliad*, the curious Trojans warmly welcomed the strange wooden horse... to their ultimate cost



MYTH-BUSTING THE LEGEND OF TROY

You could say that one of the biggest box office smashes of the past 15 years was three millennia in the making. When *Troy* was released in 2004, thousands of movie-lovers across the globe thrilled to the film's high-octane battle sequences, expansive scenery and, no doubt, the sight of Brad Pitt, Eric Bana and Orlando Bloom running around without many clothes on.

There is, of course, nothing new in this. For the story of the Trojan Wars has been thrilling audiences for almost 3,000 years, ever since it was first brought to life by a shadowy Greek poet called Homer in his epic poem *The Iliad*.

We don't know much about Homer. We can't be sure when he lived, though many historians place him in the eighth century BC. Some have even questioned whether a man named Homer lived at all. But there's one thing that we *do* know for sure. And that's that the tale he popularised all those years ago has proved one of the most irresistible in human history.

"The whole story of the Trojan War is a compelling one for the ages," declared the renowned archaeologist Eric H Cline. "It's love and war, it's greed, it's desire. You name it, it has elements that compel the human psyche, and have for millennia."

This amazing story begins when a Trojan prince, Paris, seduces Helen, the beautiful wife of King Menelaus, and spirits her back to Troy. Menelaus is, unsurprisingly, none too pleased at this turn of events and is hellbent on winning Helen back. So, with the help of his brother Agamemnon, the mighty king of Mycenae, Menelaus assembles a fleet of more than



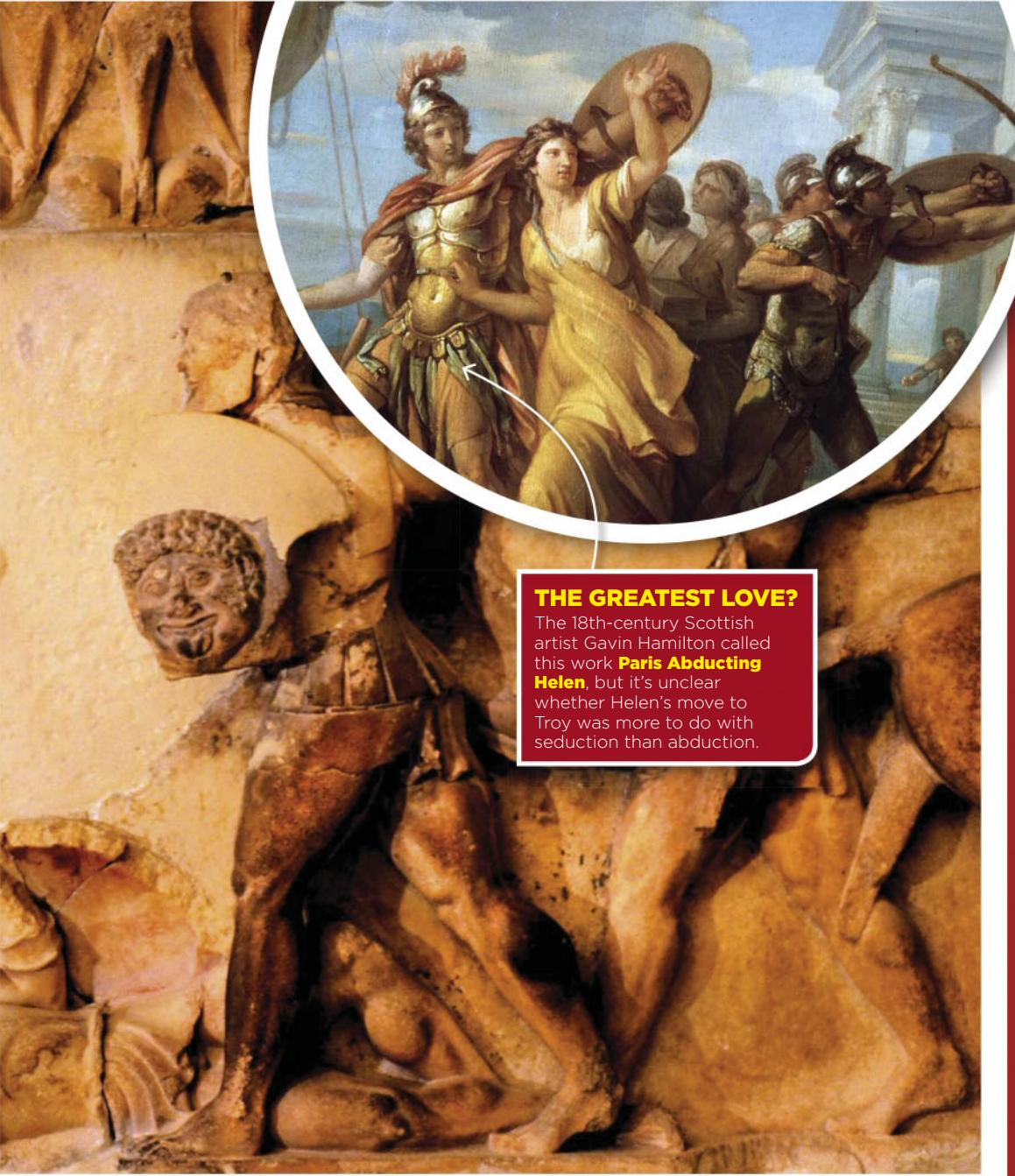
FULL METAL JACKET

LEFT: Eric Bana goes into battle as the Trojan warrior Hector in the 2004 film *Troy*
MAIN: The Trojan War, as depicted on a frieze that forms part of the Siphnian Treasury at Delphi in Greece

1,000 Greek ships to set sail for Troy and place it under siege.

In this epic clash of kingdoms, Menelaus seemingly holds all the cards: the combined might of much of the Greek world, control of the seas and an unquenchable thirst for revenge. He can also call upon the services of the world's greatest warrior, Achilles, who is utterly invincible, we're told – apart from his famously vulnerable heel.

But, led by Hector, their own champion warrior, the Trojans repel everything the Greeks can throw at them. After nine long, blood-splattered years – and with Hector and Achilles both dead – the two sides have fought themselves to a standstill. For the Greeks, the game appears to be up.



THE GREATEST LOVE?

The 18th-century Scottish artist Gavin Hamilton called this work **Paris Abducting Helen**, but it's unclear whether Helen's move to Troy was more to do with seduction than abduction.

But this is a story with a sting in its tail. The Greek warrior Odysseus conceives a scheme to build a giant, hollow wooden horse and conceal Greek warriors within it. The Greeks leave the horse outside the walls of Troy, before pretending to abandon their siege and sail homeward.

HIDDEN AGENDA

The rest, you might say, is history. The curious Trojans can't resist the temptation to wheel the horse into their city – and hardly have time to draw breath before paying a catastrophic price. In the dead of night, the Greeks steal out of the horse and massacre the Trojans in their beds. The city's brave resistance ends in annihilation.

So ends the tale of the Trojan War. But the story of the conflict's massive impact on the Western world was only just beginning. It first seeped into Greek popular culture, before heading west towards Rome. Fast-forward a few hundred years from the time of Homer and you have one of the great Roman poets,

45

The estimated number of suitors attempting to court Helen before her marriage to King Menelaus

Virgil, putting his own spin on *The Iliad*. In *The Aeneid*, Virgil relates how a group of Trojans, led by the hero Aeneas, leave the rubble of their city and found the settlement at the heart of the greatest empire the world has ever seen: Rome.

With Virgil's help, the Trojan War was firmly cemented into the bedrock of Western culture – and not as a piece of fantasy, but as a true story. The normally critical fifth-century BC Athenian historian Thucydides may have quibbled over the number of boats that

the Greeks sent to Troy, but he still believed the events were founded in fact. For the next 2,000 years or so, it seemed that most people agreed with him.

All that, though, changed during the Enlightenment, when a new brand of sceptical thinkers began to question everything previous generations had unquestioningly accepted. And what did these men make of a tale in which vengeful gods fight proxy wars through

METRE AND MYSTERY

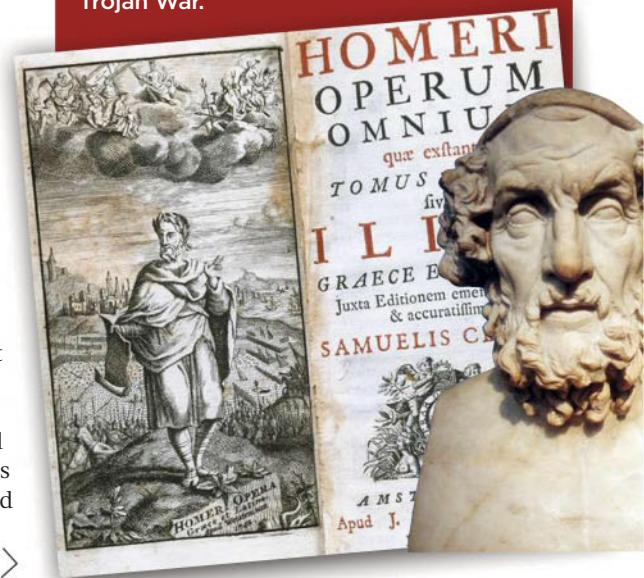
THE ILIAD

As generations of schoolchildren will recall, the work of literature responsible for catapulting the story of the Trojan War into the world's collective imagination is *The Iliad*. This epic Greek poem is one of the most celebrated in all of history, but its origins are shrouded in mystery.

At the centre of the riddle lies the poet to whom the book has traditionally been ascribed – Homer. Was he blind? Was *The Iliad* the product of his imagination, or was he recording an age-old story that had been passed down the centuries through word of mouth? Was there not one Homer, but several, composing the tale in collaboration?

We will never know. But what we can be fairly certain of is that *The Iliad* was composed not at the time of the events that it describes (in the late Bronze Age), but somewhere between 750 and 650 BC. The feudal social structures that Homer describes bear all the hallmarks of that later period, while some of the weapons his heroes use hadn't reached Greece by the late Bronze Age.

For all the uncertainty swirling around *The Iliad*, there's no obscuring its massive impact on Western – and, more specifically, British – literature. By the 12th century AD, the poem had permeated British culture to such an extent that, in his history of the kings of Britain, Geoffrey of Monmouth claimed that the island was founded by Brutus, descendant of the Trojan hero Aeneas. An even bigger compliment came when perhaps the greatest writer of them all, William Shakespeare, built his play *Troilus and Cressida* around a tragic love affair played out against a backdrop of the Trojan War.



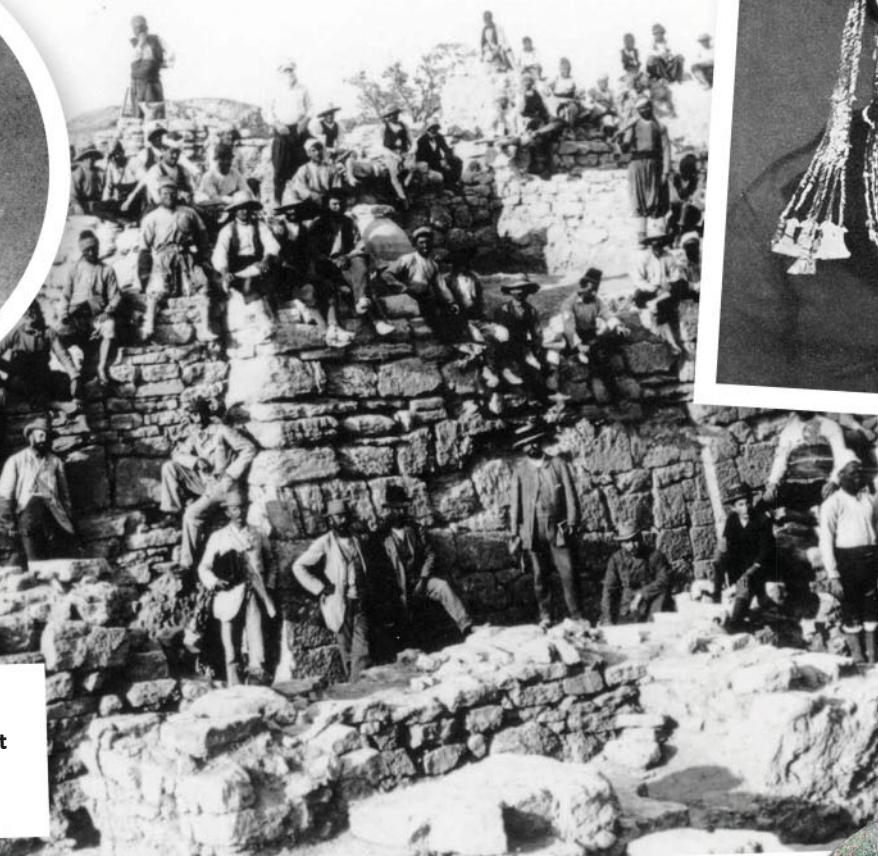


MYTH-BUSTING THE LEGEND OF TROY



THE OBSESSIVE

ABOVE: The archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann, who spent much cash investigating Troy
MAIN: Schliemann's extensive team of excavators takes a rest



TREASURE HAUL

ABOVE: Sophie Schliemann, wife of Heinrich, models the excavated jewellery
RIGHT: Further artefacts recovered from the supposed location of Troy

human agents, and snakes are turned to stone? They dismissed it as bunkum – a view neatly summed up by the French mathematician Blaise Pascal when, in the 17th century, he declared: “Homer wrote a romance, for nobody supposes that Troy and Agamemnon existed any more than the apples of the Hesperides. He had no intention to write history, but only to amuse us.”

So the tide had turned. Received opinion now had it that the Trojan War was nothing more than make-believe. Luckily, the entrepreneur-turned-archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann wasn't the kind of man to swim with the tide. As a boy growing up in early 19th-century Germany, he had seen a picture of Troy in flames in a book his father had given him. It was an image that stuck. Schliemann was convinced that the Trojan War was a historical fact and, by the middle of the century, having made his fortune, he was hellbent on proving it.

The Greek literary tradition suggested that Troy, if it ever existed, was located on the north-east coast of Anatolia (home to modern-day Turkey) and that the conflict Homer had described took place at the end of the Bronze Age, perhaps in the 12th or 13th centuries BC. This wasn't much for Schliemann to work with but, as luck would have it, the English

15,693

The number of lines in *The Iliad*, Homer's epic – and still resonant – poem about the siege of Troy

archaeologist Frank Calvert had just begun digging at a place called Hisarlik on that north-east coast. Could this be the location of Homer's Troy? Schliemann wasn't the kind of man to hang around to find out. Soon, he was blasting into the earth.

What Schliemann found 15 metres below the surface was truly astonishing: a palace and a gate with

still when it was revealed that Schliemann's citadel was far smaller than the one described by Homer, and that the jewels were fashioned 1,000 years after the late Bronze Age.

That's not to say that Schliemann's dig was a high-profile, expensive waste of time. More than a century after he breathed his last, few doubt that the citadel that he was so instrumental in uncovering was ancient Troy – it's just not the version of Troy that Homer brought to life.

“Over the past 150 years, finding a version of Troy that fits Homer's very specific criteria has eluded almost every archaeologist”

a road running through it large enough to accommodate two chariots. Schliemann also uncovered evidence of a sophisticated culture, including fantastic gold diadems and necklaces. The German suggested that he'd found the ancient citadel of Troy, and that the jewels had been worn by the woman at the heart of the famous conflict, Helen.

The rest of the world remained sceptical. The doubters would become even more suspicious

And, over the past 150 years, that has been the chief challenge facing each and every archaeologist who has embarked on a quest to solve the riddle of the Trojan War. Excavations at Hisarlik have revealed numerous layers of construction, representing different stages of the site's inhabitation for thousands of years from around 3,000 BC. It's been finding one that fits Homer's very specific criteria that's eluded them.



In 1893, Schliemann's former assistant, Wilhelm Dörpfeld, excavated a citadel with massive walls, high towers and great gates. This citadel was from the late Bronze Age, a time that fitted the legend. But Dörpfeld's Troy couldn't have withstood a decade-long siege. It was big, but not big enough.

GOING UNDERGROUND

The trail went cold until yet another German, Manfred Korfmann, arrived in north-east Turkey in the 1980s. Accompanied by an international team of experts and armed with state-of-the-art magnetic scanning equipment capable of revealing buried walls and streets, he had at his disposal resources that Schliemann and Dörpfeld could only have dreamed of. And it was soon to pay dividends.

Korfmann's scans revealed a ditch cut into the rock surrounding the citadel which, he believed, may have been designed to repel chariots. It had the right age profile and, crucially, was large enough to protect a substantial city, one with a population of between 4,000 and 8,000 people. "People who think there was a Homeric Troy – a city of substantial size and population – will be happy with this result," he declared.

Just as exciting was what else Korfmann found at the site: burned remains, a half-buried girl, arrowheads and sling pellets in heaps. These had all the hallmarks of a city abandoned in defeat – and in a hurry.

THE GREEK POWERHOUSE MYCENAE: SCOURGE OF TROY

In Homer's telling of the Trojan War, Troy has the misfortune of being attacked not by a single Greek city-state but by a conglomeration of armies drawn from across the region.

For all that, one particular city seems to have played an especially prominent role in the conflict – and that's Mycenae, led by the formidable Agamemnon. As the brother of Menelaus, Helen of Troy's jilted husband, it's Agamemnon who directs the combined Greek forces in their assault on Troy.

In this respect, there's every chance that Homer's fiction was reflecting fact: Mycenae was *the* dominant power in southern Greece at the time of the historical Trojan War, and one with the means to wage war on a massive scale.

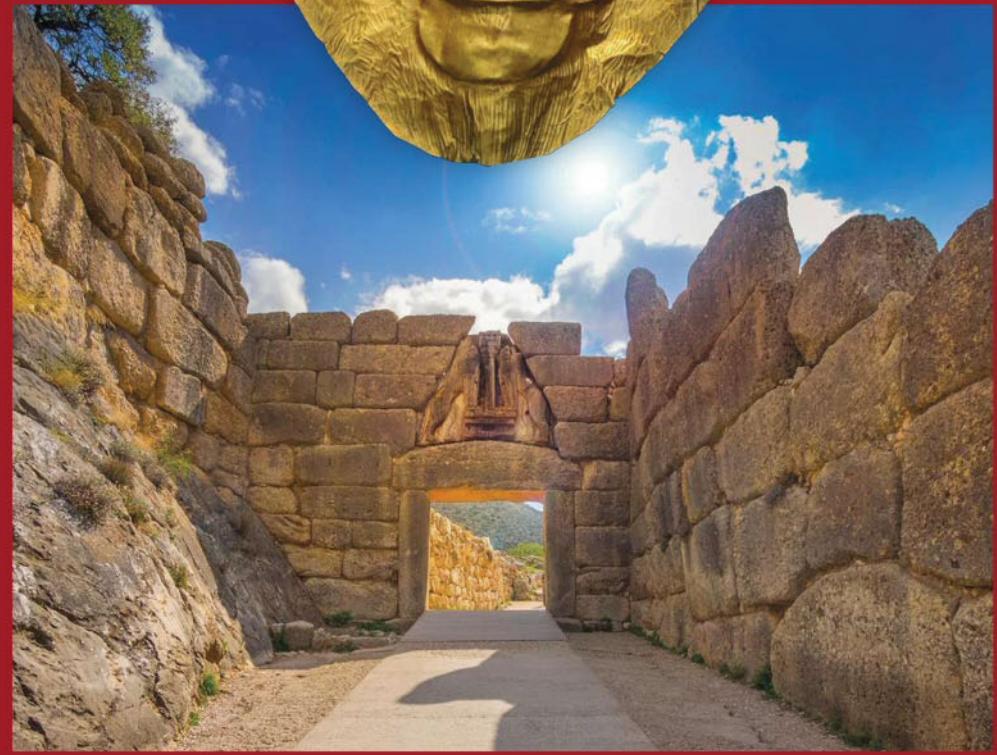
Excavations at the site of Mycenae – about 95 miles south-west of Athens – have revealed evidence of a bustling citadel dominated by a huge palace. Flood management systems, a complex road network and pottery imported from across the Greek world suggest that this was a seriously advanced culture.

But perhaps more revealing still is what archaeologists have found in the graves of Mycenae's rulers: exquisitely decorated armour, accompanied by as many as 50 swords. This was a warrior culture, one that – during the height of its power (1400-1100 BC) – launched raids against Egypt and the Hittites of Anatolia, while colonising everywhere from Crete to parts of mainland Italy.

It may also have been a culture with a very pressing motive to attack Troy. Around the time of the Trojan War, the Mycenaeans undertook a massive building project in their city, almost doubling the size of its fortified area. Could they have assaulted wealthy Troy in order to help fund the building work?

Whatever their motives, the Mycenaeans were to reap what they sowed, for – around 1100 BC – their citadel was itself destroyed, perhaps by rampaging Doriens from the north.

MASKING THE TRUTH?
LEFT: The mask of Agamemnon, discovered by Schliemann in 1876
MAIN: The 13th-century BC Lion Gate at Mycenae



MYTH-BUSTING THE LEGEND OF TROY



FIGHT TO THE DEATH

A scene from *The Iliad* is recreated in this 19th-century engraving in the style of Greek vase painting

◀ Korfmann had maybe, just maybe, found the holy grail of archaeology – the remnants of Homer's Troy. But to paint a picture of what might be the real story of the Trojan War, this was not enough. Archaeologists have had to look elsewhere, at other sources.

Of all these sources, an ancient collection of clay tablets discovered in a place called Hattusa – the power base of the Hittite empire – have proved the most revealing. The Hittites were the dominant force in central Anatolia for much of the second millennium BC, ruling all the land between the Aegean Sea in the west and the river Euphrates in the east. Luckily for us, they could write as well as fight, and the tablets on which they recorded the major events of the time give us a fascinating insight into the late Bronze Age world.

THE LONG GAME

The tablets repeatedly refer to a conflict between the Hittites and a rival power that the tablets call the "Ahhiyawans" over a location called "Wilusa" around 1250 BC. Archaeologists are fairly certain that the Ahhiyawans were the Greeks – and that Wilusa was the Hittite name for Troy. But, if the tablets are correct, this war wasn't fought and won in a decade – it appeared to drag on for perhaps as long as 200 years.

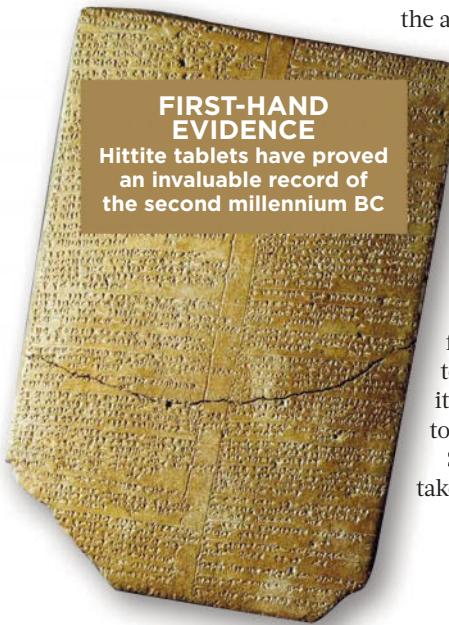
If so, why? What led the Greeks to expend men and resources waging war against a city on the Anatolian coast for such a vast amount of time – especially if it brought them into direct confrontation with the Hittites? The answer could come down to one word: greed.

Sitting on the edge of the Dardanelles – a vital sea route linking Europe with Asia – Troy could hardly have occupied a more strategically important location. And this location would have given it access to highly prized goods shipped in from across the known world (as the nearby discovery of a Bronze Age shipwreck, packed with the finest products that money could buy, suggests). This would have brought Troy great wealth, but it would

have also made the city rich pickings for the area's superpowers.

Excavations have revealed that southern Greece was dominated by the military stronghold of Mycenae, populated by a people with a proud warrior culture. Perhaps they found the temptation to plunder Troy for its treasures too much to resist.

So could Homer have taken a 200-year clash



FIRST-HAND EVIDENCE

Hittite tablets have proved an invaluable record of the second millennium BC

MANFRED THE MAN

German archaeologist **Manfred Korffmann** had the advantage of 20th-century technology when he attempted to solve the mystery of Troy.

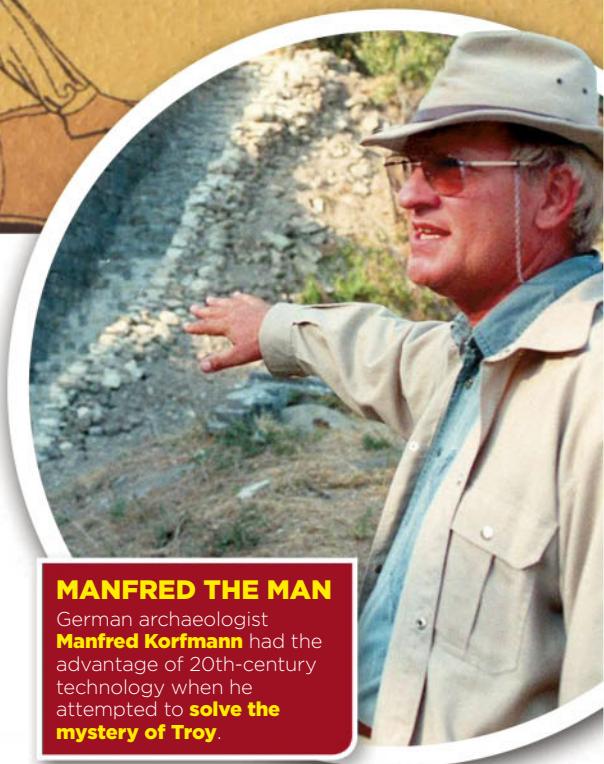
over wealth and power – adding a classic love story, a sprinkling of divine squabbling and superhuman martial feats to taste – and distilled it into a 10-year siege?

We'll probably never know for sure. But whatever it was that moved this obscure Greek writer to regale the world with his tale, we can be sure of one thing: the results were spectacular. ☺

GET HOOKED

BOOKS

Aside from reading (or re-reading) *The Iliad*, take a look at Michael Wood's *In Search Of The Trojan War* or *Helen Of Troy: Goddess, Princess, Whore* by Bettany Hughes





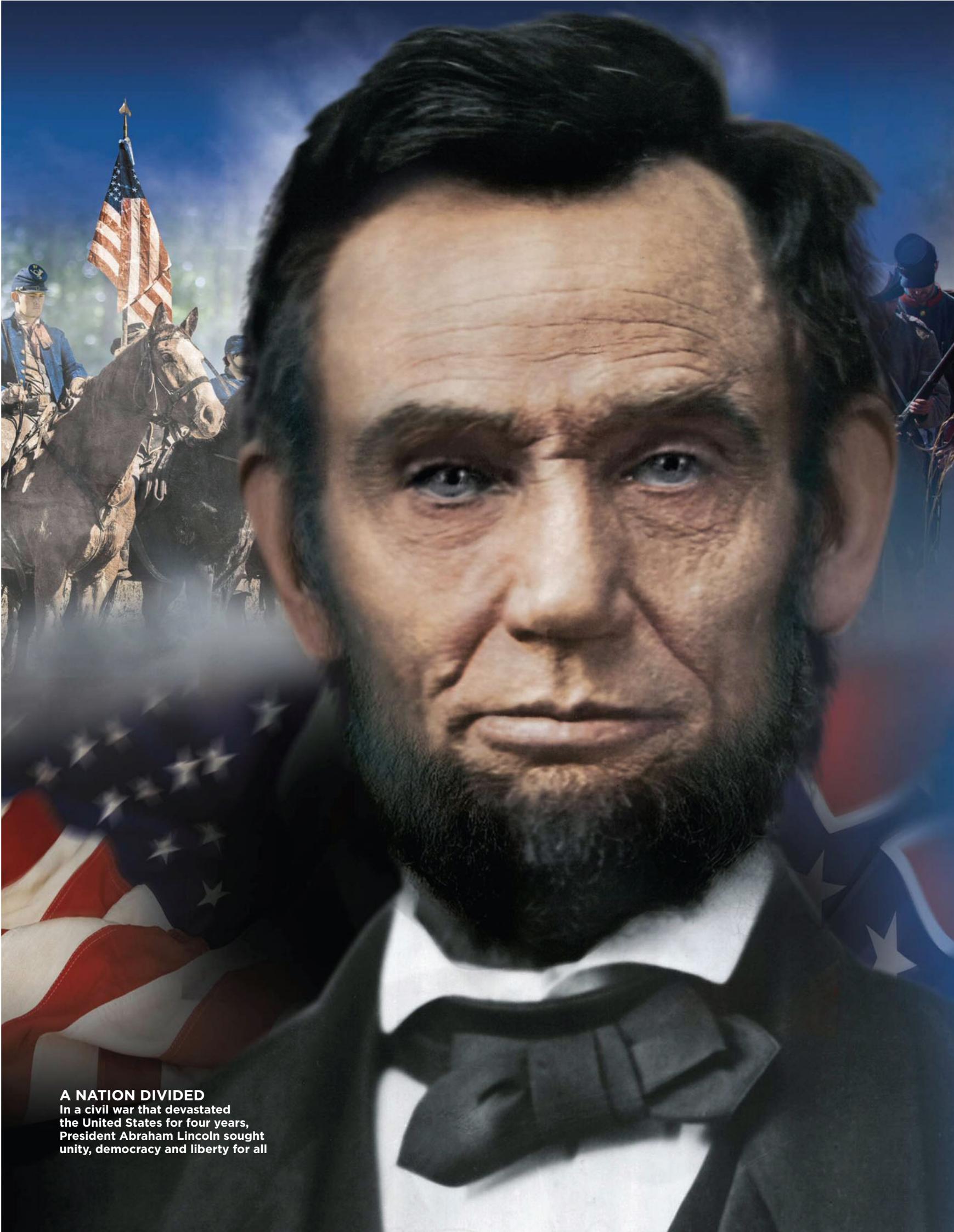
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A NATION DIVIDED

In a civil war that devastated the United States for four years, President Abraham Lincoln sought unity, democracy and liberty for all



THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

WHAT'S THE STORY?

Less than a century after achieving its independence, the United States of America risked ripping itself permanently apart through civil war. Between 1861 and 1865 – still the bloodiest four years in the country's history – the states of the North (known as the Union) and South (re-named as the Confederate States of America) fought bitterly for their separate ways of life.

Political, social and cultural chasms between North and South had been widening for years, especially over the 'peculiar institution' of slavery. But, as **Jonny Wilkes** explains, it would take the deaths of 750,000 Americans, the emancipation of 4 million slaves and the tireless leadership of perhaps the US's greatest President, Abraham Lincoln, to unify and define the nation...

NOW READ ON...

NEED TO KNOW

- 1 The Road to War p44
- 2 Blue v Grey p46
- 3 Battle Lines p48
- 4 North on the Up p50
- 5 Countdown to Union Victory p52

TIMELINE

The Battle Cry of Freedom p54



THE ROAD TO WAR

The issue of slavery divided the United States long before the first shots were fired

Speaking in 1858, a rising American politician by the name of Abraham Lincoln famously affirmed: "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently, half slave and half free." Only two years later, Lincoln's warning was realised, and it was his election to President that proved the catalyst for dividing the house once and for all, plunging the fledgling United States into a long and bloody civil war.

11

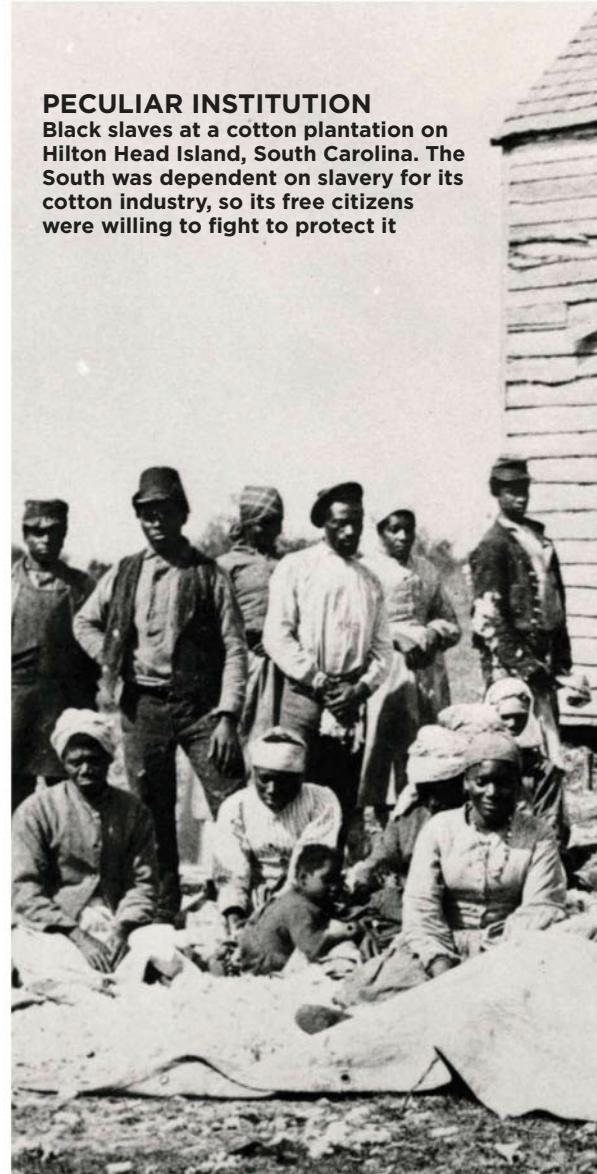
The total number of states that seceded in 1861, leaving 23 still loyal to the Union (four of which were slave states)

For decades before the American Civil War, the free North and slave-owning states of the South had been at loggerheads over the 'peculiar institution', as slavery was known. While the abolitionists certainly became more prevalent during the 19th century, it is a misconception that the reason why the Union split – and three-quarters of a million people lost their lives – was the black-and-white issue of slavery's morality.

Since winning independence less than a century earlier, the US had developed two contrasting personalities, and their clashes

PECULIAR INSTITUTION

Black slaves at a cotton plantation on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. The South was dependent on slavery for its cotton industry, so its free citizens were willing to fight to protect it



RIVAL LEADERS

PRESIDENTIAL PUNCH-UP

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Has there ever been a more dramatic reaction to the election of a president than when 'Honest Abe' swept to victory in late 1860? Before the 16th President of the United States took office, several states had seceded and formed the Confederacy, setting North and South on a path towards war.

He rose to prominence with his eloquent and passionate oratory, not to mention his homespun charm. Once the fighting began, however, many doubted if Lincoln – the self-taught lawyer from frontier Kentucky who served only one term in Congress before running for President – was up to the job as Commander-in-Chief. As the conflict progressed, he grew into a proficient wartime leader against the Southern rebellion (he never recognised the Confederacy as a sovereign state). Through the rivers of blood, Lincoln was driven by a clear sense of purpose – the preservation of the Union.

JEFFERSON DAVIS

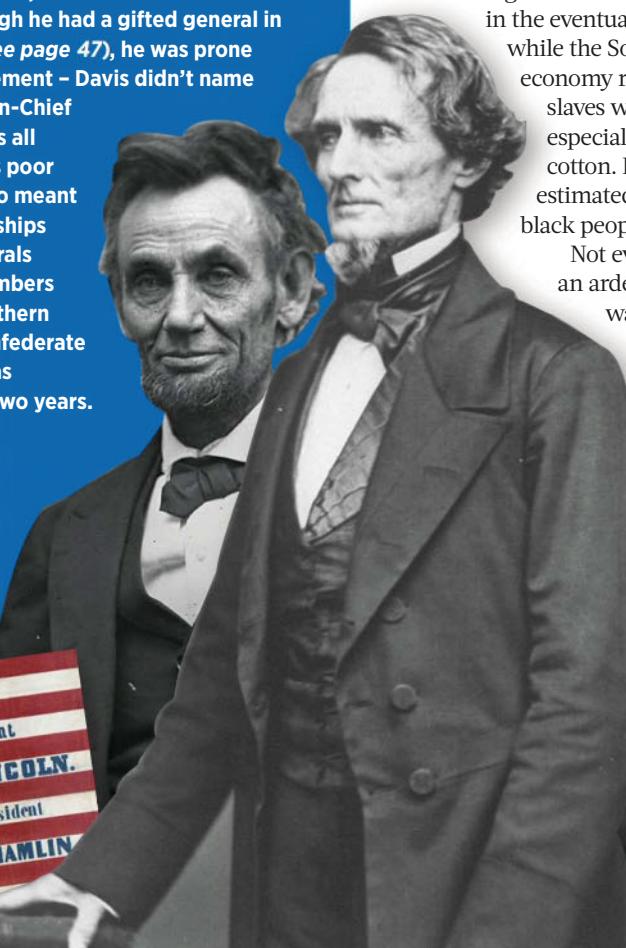
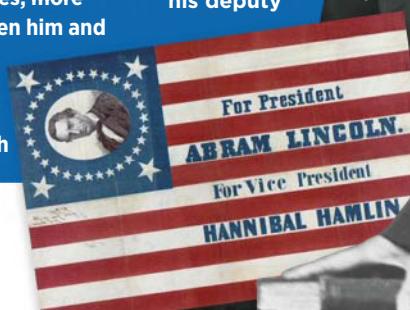
At the outset of the War, the Confederate President knew the odds were stacked against him. The North had more resources, more men and more money. Yet between him and Lincoln, it was Davis who was the better military commander, having graduated from the US Military Academy and served with

distinction in the Mexican-American War. That was why he had been chosen to lead this new country, after all.

But from the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, Davis was found to be wanting. Although he had a gifted general in Robert E Lee (see page 47), he was prone to micromanagement – Davis didn't name Lee as General-in-Chief until the war was all but over. Davis's poor people skills also meant that his relationships with other generals and cabinet members harmed the Southern cause. After Confederate defeat, Davis was imprisoned for two years.

LINCOLN'S STANDARD

An 1860 campaign flag for Abraham Lincoln and his deputy

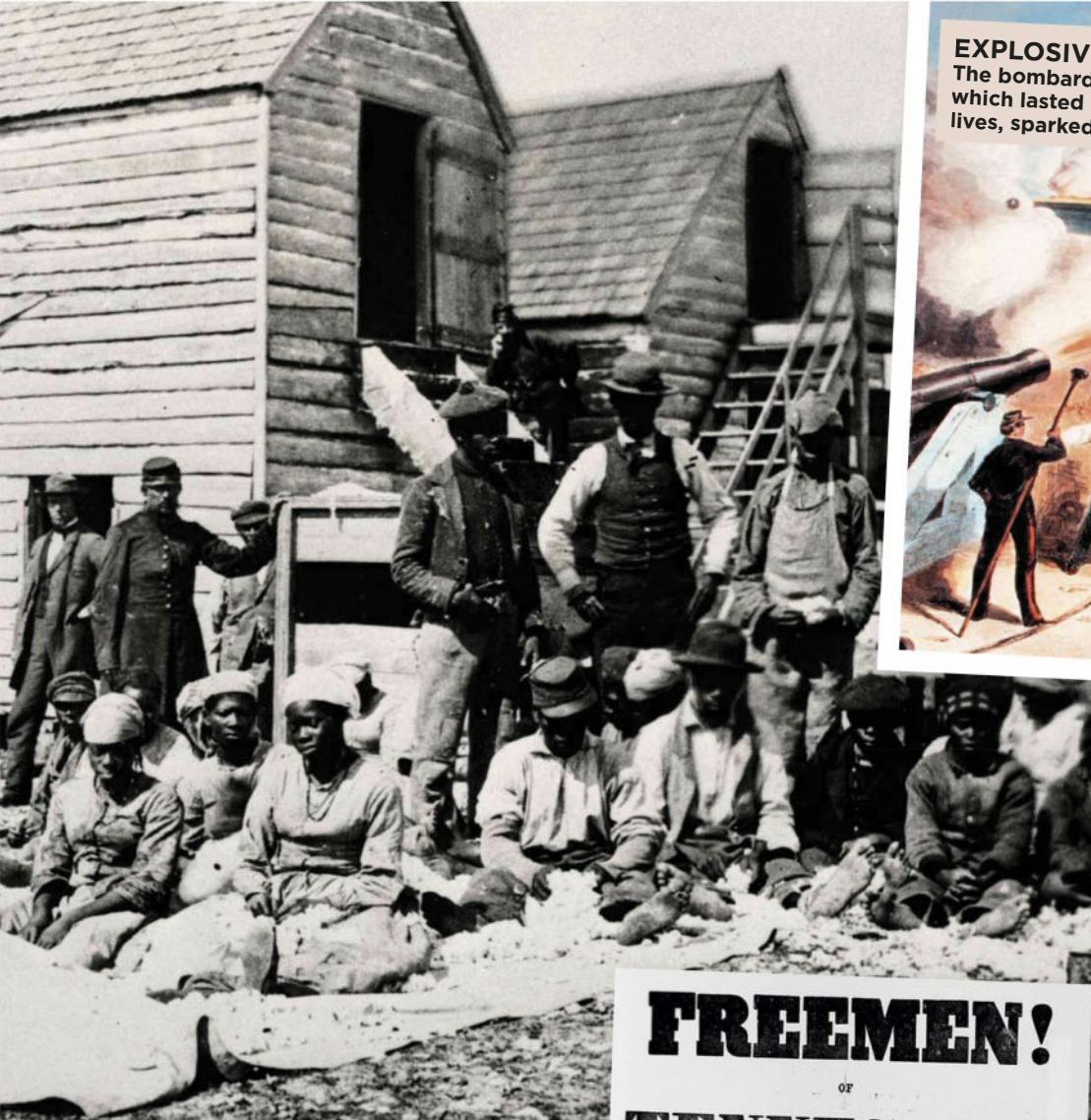


threatened the nation's future. The North, which prohibited slavery, was modernising through industrialisation (a vital factor in the eventual outcome of the war), while the South's agricultural economy remained reliant on slaves working on plantations, especially those producing cotton. By 1860, there were an estimated 4 million enslaved black people in the South.

Not everyone in the North was an ardent abolitionist, but there was strong opposition to the extension of slavery into the western territories, something the South advocated. This led to frequent

WARRIOR-IN-CHIEF

After his narrow victory in the 1860 election, the North worried that Lincoln (left) would not be a strong wartime leader, when compared to his rival, Jefferson Davis (right)



OPEN FIRE FIRST SHOTS AT FORT SUMTER

Considering the death toll that was to follow during four years of the American Civil War, it is perhaps strange to think that the first engagement, the bombardment of Fort Sumter, ended without a single casualty.

At 4.30am on 12 April 1861, Confederate forces fired on the island fortress at the entrance to Charleston's harbour, garrisoned by around 85 troops under Major Robert Anderson. The state of South Carolina had already seceded, but Fort Sumter had not been abandoned by the Union army. The Southern decision to attack was made following the news the Lincoln was planning to re-supply Fort Sumter – a savvy move by the new US President as it forced the South to be the aggressor.

One Union soldier described the scene in Fort Sumter: "The Conflagration was terrible and disastrous... the bursting of the enemy's shells, and our own which were exploding in the burning rooms, the crashing of the shot, and the sound of masonry falling in every direction, made the fort a pandemonium."

After 34 hours and some 3,000 shots, general officer of the new Confederate States Army PGT Beauregard ordered a halt to the bombardment when it became clear surrender was imminent. Despite no deaths, Fort Sumter shocked the North as stirring accounts of the Stars and Stripes flag on fire filled the newspapers.

Lincoln responded by calling for 75,000 militiamen to serve for three months, which in turn led to the secession of four more states – Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee and North Carolina. With armies mustering on both sides, war was now inevitable.

FREEMEN!

TENNESSEE!

The Yankee War is now being waged for "beauty and booty." They have driven us from them, and now say OUR TRADE they must and will have. To excite their hired and ruffian is the reward of the brave.

Tennesseans! your country calls! Shall we wait until our homes are laid desolate; until sword and rape shall have visited them? NEVER! Then

TO ARMS!

and let us meet the enemy on the borders. Who so vile, so craven, as not to strike for his native land?

The undersigned propose to immediately raise an infantry company to be offered to the Governor as part of the defense of the State and of the Confederate States. All those who desire to join with us in serving our common country, will report themselves immediately.

**J. B. Murray.
H. C. Witt.**

May 17th, 1861.

Neal & Roberts, Printers, Morristown, Tenn.

CALL OF DUTY
Thousands of Southerners responded to the call for volunteers to defend their homelands against the invading Union army

"THE US HAD DEVELOPED TWO CONTRASTING PERSONALITIES, THEIR CLASHES THREATENED THE NATION'S FUTURE"

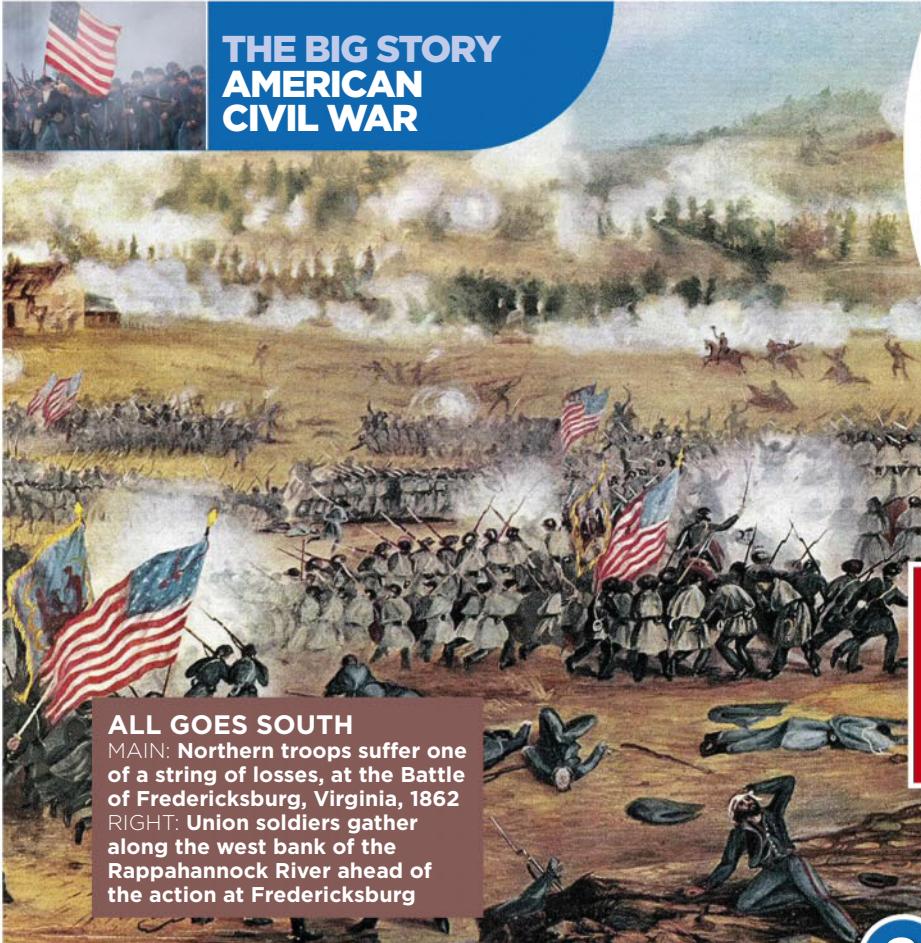
quarrels and compromises, such as the Missouri Compromise of 1820 – where the slave state of Missouri was admitted to the Union in return for a slave-free Maine and other tracts of land. Then, in 1848, some 500,000 square miles of land were annexed by the US after victory in the war against Mexico, causing tensions to rise again. So, as the 1850 Compromise prevented slavery in California, the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act permitted it elsewhere.

POLITICAL POWERHOUSE

Fighting against slavery was the newly created Republican Party, who chose Lincoln as its candidate for the 1860 presidential election, to the chagrin of many Southerners. Despite achieving only 40 per cent of the vote, and gaining no support in the South whatsoever, Lincoln was elected in November.

By the time of his inauguration on 4 March 1861, seven states – South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas – seceded (four more joined them in the following months) and formed the Confederate States of America. In his inauguration speech, Lincoln mused: "Plainly, the central idea of secession is the essence of anarchy." The damage was done, however, and anarchy was just around the corner.

EXPLOSIVE BEGINNINGS
The bombardment of Fort Sumter, which lasted 34 hours and claimed no lives, sparked four years of civil war



ALL GOES SOUTH
MAIN: Northern troops suffer one of a string of losses, at the Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia, 1862
RIGHT: Union soldiers gather along the west bank of the Rappahannock River ahead of the action at Fredericksburg

PUSH FOR VICTORY
Confederate troops advance at 125th anniversary re-enactment of the First Battle of Bull Run, 1986

WAR FEVER
Soldiers on both sides were vulnerable to disease, as hygiene was less understood.
More actually died from illness than due to battle wounds.



2

BLUE v GREY

What would make American fight American?

Between those who donned the blue uniforms of the Union Army or the Confederate's grey, tens of thousands of men volunteered in the early stages of the Civil War. As well as the usual glory- and thrill-seekers, Northerners and Southerners each had their own profound reasons for joining the fight. What side a person came down on could split families and turn brother against brother.

97

The percentage of American firearms production based in the North

For the North, the drive wasn't to end slavery – thoughts of abolition and emancipation came later – but to protect their sacred form of democracy, handed down from the Founding Fathers. It was, as Lincoln described, "The last best hope of Earth".

And there was good reason for the Northern 'Yankees' to be confident. The Union had the more stable infrastructure and government, a population of 21 million compared to the South's 9 (4 of which were slaves) and the majority of the

nation's railroads and factories. There was also a huge influx of German and Irish immigrants to swell the army's ranks. Such was the optimism that, at one of the earliest encounters, the First Battle of Bull Run in July 1861, civilians from Washington, DC set up picnics on the hills near the battlefield to watch a rout. But the spectators were to be disappointed. Thanks to the defence rallied by Confederate Officer Thomas Jonathan Jackson – thereafter known as 'Stonewall' – the picnic-goers had to high-tail it to safety.

Southern bravery, determination and mettle gave the Confederates the edge from

CIVILIAN LIFE

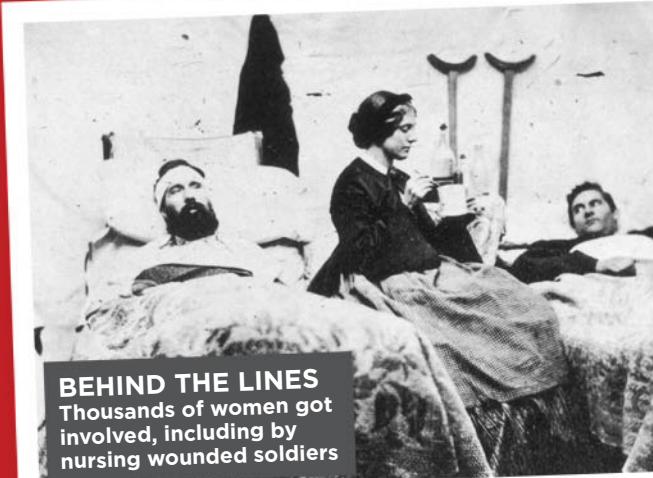
CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE

As it was southern soil being washed with the blood of soldiers, life for those left behind was (partially) easier in the North. That is not to say things were easy, as families were torn apart and frequent news updates from battlefields must have made for a time of great anxiety and fear.

Those in the South, however, faced not only an invasion but a naval blockade, which cut off precious supplies. Due to a paper shortage, people resorted to ripping wallpaper off their walls so they could write letters. Another

account relates how on Christmas morning, with nothing to offer as gifts, a General Howell Cobb told his children that the Yankees had shot Santa Claus.

The war heralded major changes for women. Some assisted the military effort by working as nurses, spies or just by organising fundraising activities to provision the troops. Others were left to assume the roles left by the men, such as management of plantations. This was made even more complicated as slaves were now fleeing the South in droves.



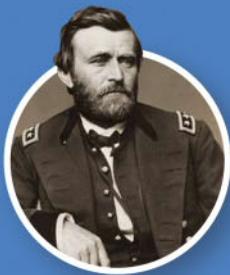
BEHIND THE LINES
Thousands of women got involved, including by nursing wounded soldiers

GENERALS IN THE FIELD

UNION

ULYSSES S GRANT

The Union's most successful commander. Following his successes in the western theatre, Grant was made General-in-Chief in 1864. In him, Lincoln had found the man who shared his drive, even if he was prepared to endure heavy casualties to achieve victory. After the war, he served two terms as President.



WILLIAM T SHERMAN

Sherman declared total war on the South with his effective but devastating March to the Sea in 1864 (see page 57), which broke the enemy's spirit once and for all. When criticised for targeting civilians, Sherman replied: "War is cruelty and you cannot refine it".



GEORGE B MCCLELLAN

Trained and equipped the Army of the Potomac in the first year of the war, but McClellan was arguably overly cautious in battle. He was replaced by a string of ineffectual generals, before Grant was appointed.

GEORGE G MEADE

A key figure in the Union's victory at the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863 – a pivotal moment in the war. He was Commander of the Army of the Potomac for two years, but was overshadowed by the influence and success of Grant.

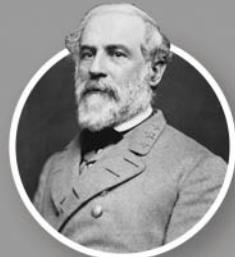
AMBROSE BURNSIDE

One of the Army's short-serving commanders. He resigned from duty after the catastrophic defeat at the 1864 Battle of the Crater. His biggest claim to fame is giving his name to a distinctive kind of facial hair – sideburns.

CONFEDERATE

ROBERT E LEE

When war broke out, Lee resigned his commission in the US Army and became the Confederate's top general – despite opposing secession. He achieved stunning victories with limited resources and men, but he was too willing to sacrifice huge numbers to go on the offensive. Lee surrendered to Grant on 9 April 1865.



THOMAS JACKSON

Lee's right-hand man and one of the South's best tacticians, Jackson earned his nickname 'Stonewall' for his defensive stand at the First Battle of Bull Run (1861). He was so highly thought of that Union prisoners once saluted as he rode past. Stonewall died in a friendly-fire incident in 1863.



BRAXTON BRAGG

As a chief Confederate general in the western theatre, Bragg was given command of the Army of Tennessee in 1862. He was a keen military organiser but poor in the field – his nervous actions made enemies among his subordinates.

JAMES LONGSTREET

Longstreet was a vital leader at the First and Second Battles of Bull Run (1861 and 1862), the Peninsular Campaign, Antietam, Fredericksburg (all 1862), Gettysburg and Chickamauga (both 1863) before being injured in the 1864 Wilderness Campaign.

NATHAN BEDFORD FORREST

The South's most gifted cavalryman, with the mantra, "Get there first with the most men". He personally killed 30 enemy soldiers, it is claimed. After the war, he served as the first Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan.

1861–62. After all, had the Americans not overcome the British against the odds when fighting for independence a century before? As most battles took place in the South, grey-clad soldiers fought for more than their nation or the safeguarding of their slave-based way of life – they were protecting their very homes and families against invasion. Because of this, loyalty to the Southern states compelled around 25 per cent of Union Army officers to join the Confederacy's ranks.

In mid-1862, Union Major General George B McClellan (see above) landed the 100,000-strong Army of the Potomac in Virginia to capture Richmond, the Confederate capital. After a few successes, the Peninsula

Campaign was forced to pull back following retaliation from the renamed Army of Northern Virginia, now under the command of the brilliant Robert E Lee. The South was in the

ascendancy. At its victory in the Battle of Fredericksburg in December, a much larger Union force was undone, resulting in 12,653 deaths. "If there's a hell, I am in it," Lincoln reportedly cried on hearing of the losses.

Naturally, as the war dragged

on and the body count rose from battle and disease, morale was hit hard. Conscription was introduced, but met with resentment from both sides, not least because the wealthy were able to buy their way out of service, inspiring the chant that it was a "Rich man's war, but a poor man's fight".

"IT IS WELL THAT WAR IS SO TERRIBLE, OTHERWISE WE SHOULD GROW TOO FOND OF IT."

Confederate General Robert E Lee



SIDE BY SIDE

During the 1862 Peninsular Campaign, a Southern prisoner (left) poses with Union Captain George Custer (best known for his defeat at the Battle of Little Bighorn in 1876)



BATTLE LINES

Southern 'Rebs' knew their best hope was to hold out until the Yankees quit

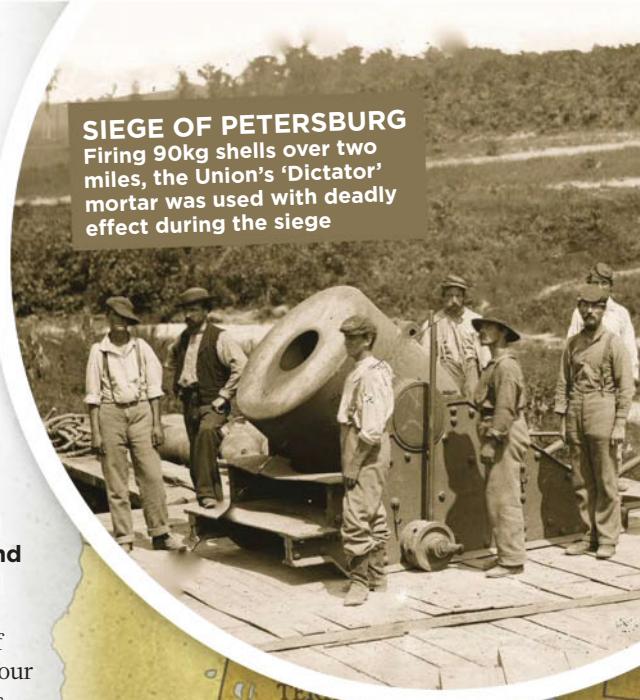
Not long after the start of the war, Winfield Scott – the ageing General-in-Chief of the Union Army – proposed an ambitious strategy to strangle the South into submission. The 'Anaconda Plan' was to be fought on two major fronts. On land, a large Yankee force would strike down the Mississippi River, cutting the Confederacy in half, before squeezing Reb armies both

to the east and west. Meanwhile, a naval blockade would dent enemy supplies, and bring about a swift end to the war.

1

The number of Union casualties at the First Battle of Memphis on 6 June 1862. The Confederates lost just under 200 men

That wasn't to be, and hundreds of battles and skirmishes raged for four years. The number of Americans who died in both World War I and World War II is thought to be around 520,000. In the four years of the American Civil War the total is an estimated 750,000.



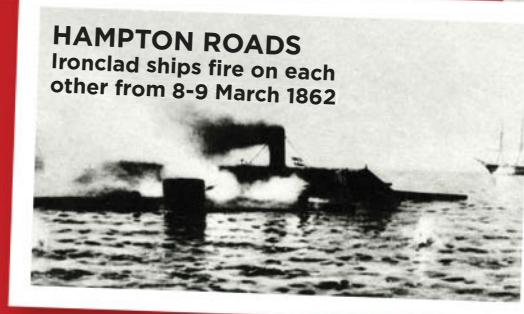
SEA POWER

BLOCKADE

After the opening shots were fired at Fort Sumter, President Lincoln ordered a naval blockade of 3,500 miles of Southern coastline. While blockade runners enjoyed some success sneaking past Union patrols, the barrier badly damaged the Southern supply chain, its economy and hopes of making foreign allies.

IRONCLADS

At a time of myriad technological advances in warfare, perhaps the most significant was the development of armoured ships. First witnessed at the Battle of Hampton Roads in 1862 – when the North's USS *Monitor* and South's CSS *Virginia* fired on each other at point-blank range for three hours, with little damage done – the ironclads changed the face of navies around the world. Union Rear



Admiral David Farragut utilised them in his victory at the Battle of Mobile Bay in 1864.

SUBMARINES

In February 1864, an early combat submarine, the South's HL *Hunley*, became the first to sink a warship when it took down a Union vessel in Charleston Harbor. Yet in the attack, which involved attaching a torpedo to the USS *Housatonic*, all eight of the *Hunley*'s own crew died – only five went down with the *Housatonic*.



THE PIVOTAL CLASHES

Out of the hundreds of battles, there were ten engagements that defined the war

FIRST BULL RUN

When: 21 July 1861

Where: Virginia (South)

Numbers: 37,000 Union, 35,000 Confederate

Events: At the first large-scale battle of the war the Union expected to smash Southern rebellion before it got going. Instead, it was a humiliating defeat. The turning point was when Confederate officer Thomas 'Stonewall' Jackson stood his ground, inspiring a breakthrough counterattack.

Result: Unexpected Confederate victory

1

FORT DONELSON

When: 11-16 February 1862

Where: Tennessee (South)

Numbers: c24,000 Union, 18,000 Confederate

Events: Before the strategic fort near the Tennessee-Kentucky border was captured, Ulysses S Grant was a relatively unknown entity. But after surrounding the Confederates and forcing their "unconditional and immediate surrender", he was promoted to Major General and gave Lincoln hope that he had found the man who would win the war.

Result: Union victory

2

ANTETAM

When: 17 September 1862

Where: Maryland (North)

Numbers: 75,500 Union, 38,000 Confederate

Events: Robert E Lee tried to seize the Union capital, but was stopped by George B McClellan in the first major battle on Northern soil. McClellan drew criticism for allowing Lee to retreat, rather than pursuing and wiping out the enemy's forces. Regardless, it remains the single bloodiest day in American history, with over 22,000 casualties.

Result: Lee's invasion is halted

3

FREDERICKSBURG

When: 13 December 1862

Where: Virginia (South)

Numbers: c120,000 Union, c78,000 Confederate

Events: With the Confederate forces entrenched on the high ground behind the Virginia town, this ended up being a one-sided engagement. Wave after wave of Union troops, commanded by Ambrose Burnside, were cut down in their thousands.

Result: Confederate victory

4

VICKSBURG CAMPAIGN

When: 26 December 1862 – 4 July 1863

Where: Mississippi (South)

Numbers: unknown

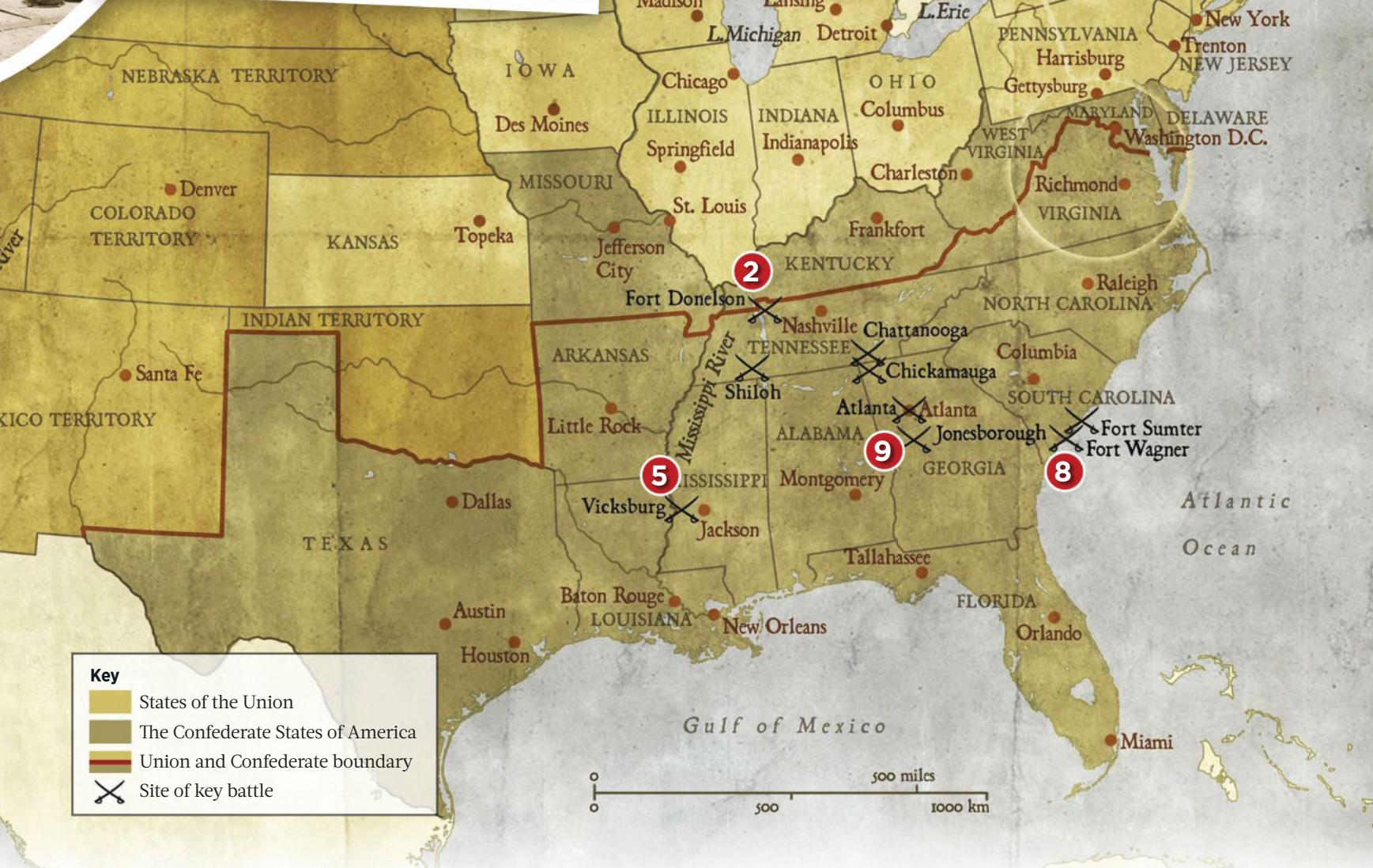
Events: On the bank of the Mississippi River, Vicksburg was a Confederate stronghold in the western theatre. After a series of failed assaults, which included ironclad ships, Grant launched a siege of the fortress. Only when the Confederate defenders neared starvation did John C Pemberton surrender.

Result: Vicksburg captured by Union forces

5



ANTETAM
Bodies are lined up after battle on 17 September 1862 – the deadliest day in American military history



Key

- States of the Union
- The Confederate States of America
- Union and Confederate boundary
- Site of key battle

CHANCELLORSVILLE

When: 1-5 May 1863

Where: Virginia (South)

Numbers: 130,000 Union, 60,000 Confederate

Events: Described as Lee's "perfect battle", he defeated a force more than twice the size of his. He split his army in half to flank Union General Joseph Hooker's troops. Although he achieved a reputation-defining victory, Lee was devastated to hear of the death of Stonewall Jackson, which he said felt like "losing my right arm".

Result: Confederate victory

6

GETTYSBURG

When: 1-3 July 1863

Where: Pennsylvania (North)

Numbers: 93,000 Union, 75,000 Confederate

Events: Battle raged for three days, leaving some 7,000 dead and with each side sustaining over 20,000 casualties during the war's bloodiest battle. Victory was a turning point for the North, while the South never recovered. A few months later, President Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address as he dedicated a national cemetery.

Result: Crushing Union victory

7

FORT WAGNER

When: 18 July 1863

Where: South Carolina (South)

Numbers: 5,000 Union, 1,800 Confederate

Events: Although a small battle in the scheme of the war, the Second Battle of Fort Wagner was hugely significant as it involved the 54th Massachusetts, a black regiment. They would fail in their assault on the fort, but they battled fiercely, demonstrating to both sides the bravery of black soldiers.

Result: Confederate victory

8

JONESBOROUGH

When: 31 August – 1 September 1864

Where: Georgia (South)

Numbers: 70,000 Union, 24,000 Confederate

Events: Sherman invaded Georgia in May, but it took several months before he could take its capital, Atlanta. He finally did so by cutting the railroad supply lines near the town of Jonesborough, forcing those still inside the city to evacuate. The fall of Atlanta is depicted in the 1939 epic, *Gone With The Wind*.

Result: Union seizes Atlanta

9

PETERSBURG

When: 2 April 1865

Where: Virginia (South)

Numbers: 76,000 Union, 58,000 Confederate

Events: In the final stages of the war, Grant launched a mass attack on Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, inflicting 10,000 casualties. While some of Grant's troops went on to capture the Confederate capital of Richmond the following day, the main force pursued Lee, resulting in his official surrender on 9 April 1865.

Result: Landmark Union victory

10



4

NORTH ON THE UP

The year 1863 saw momentum shift from Confederacy to the Union

The outlook was bleak all over at the start of 1863. As death and destruction weighed heavy on morale, thoughts gnawed at people's minds about why the war was still going on and whether it was right to continue supporting the cause. To make matters worse, a war had never been so well documented for the public than this one – with telegraphs sending news instantly across the land, newspapers filled with almost daily reports of the casualties and some 1 million photographs being taken (many of them graphic).

In the North, a downtrodden Lincoln grew increasingly frustrated at the stagnation of his

armies, which only emboldened opposition from a group of peace-seeking Democrats, called the 'Copperheads' after a poisonous snake. Then, in July, thousands took to the streets of New York in riots against conscription – the largest civil unrest in American history. What began as anger towards the draft laws, which permitted men to avoid serving if they paid \$300, spilled into four days of rioting, as well as violence against black people in the city (a tragic retaliation to Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, see below). Around 120 died before troops restored order.

But by then, the decisive shift in the North's fortune had already come, with victory at the Battle of Gettysburg. In one of the milestone moments of the war, Confederate General Lee



BREAKING POINT
In July 1863, rioters take to the streets of New York City to protest against a conscription act

threw everything at that three-day bloodbath but lost, leaving his army demoralised, depleted and defeated. It would take almost two more years of battles before the war ended, but the South, with its civilians already staving off starvation, appeared to be spent, allowing the North's numerical advantages in soldiers and resources to pay off.

And worse was to come for the South, when Union General William T Sherman marched to the sea (see right).

FOREVER FREE THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

On New Year's Day 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, in one of the most important acts of the war and American history – the abolition of slavery.

The document freed all slaves in the Confederate states (some 3 million people at that point) and explicitly linked the outcome of the war with the future of slavery for the first time. Lincoln's priority remained the preservation of the Union – less than a year previously, he had said: "If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it" – but now, that goal was only achievable alongside the eradication of the 'peculiar institution'.

Although Lincoln drafted the Proclamation in July 1862, he didn't publicise it until after the Battle of Antietam in September. The reason

FREEDOM TO SLAVES!

Whereas, the President of the United States did, on the first day of the present month, issue his Proclamation declaring "that all persons held as slaves in the certain designated States, and parts of States, are, and henceforward shall be free," and that the Executive Government of the United States, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and including the Military and Naval authorities thereto, will not arrest or disturb such persons, or any of them, when found within the limits of the said States, or any of them, and will not permit the return of such persons to slavery, in any of the States above mentioned, and of said County, of said Proclamation, citizens of the city of Washington, and of said County, of said Proclamation, and of my intention to maintain and enforce the same;

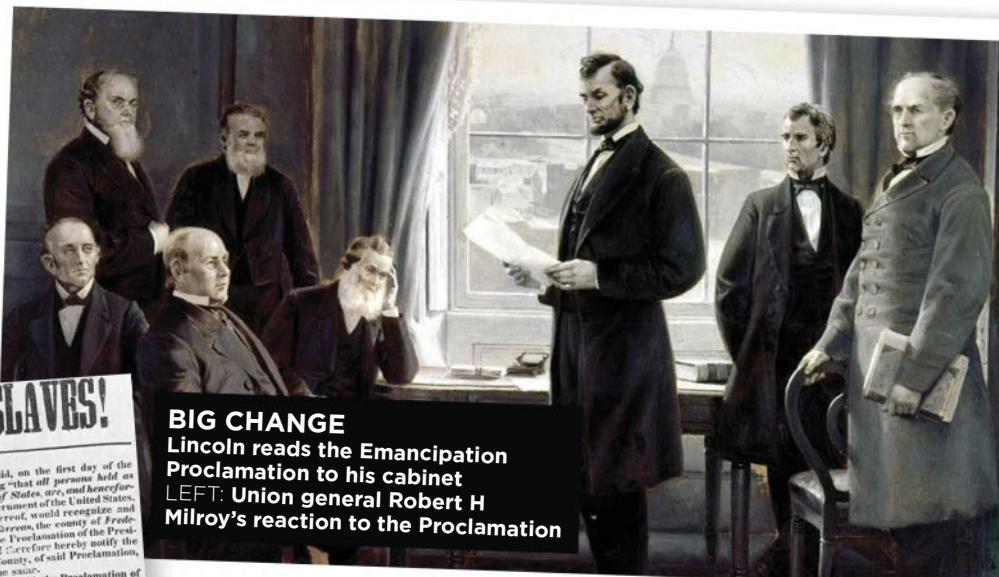
I, Abraham Lincoln, do hereby command all citizens to yield a ready compliance with the Proclamation of the Chief Executive, and I admonish all persons disposed to resist its peaceful enforcement, that upon manifesting such disposition by acts, Federal Government and dealt with according to law.

All persons liberated by said Proclamation are admonished to abstain from all violence, and immediately make themselves to useful occupations, from all violence, and immediately make themselves to useful occupations, from all violence, and immediately make themselves to useful occupations,

The officers of this command are admonished and ordered to act in accordance with said proclamation and to yield their ready co-operation in its enforcement.

R. H. Milroy,
Brig. Gen'l Commanding.

Washington, D.C.
Jan. 5th, 1863.



BIG CHANGE
Lincoln reads the Emancipation Proclamation to his cabinet
LEFT: Union general Robert H. Milroy's reaction to the Proclamation

was that he didn't want the decision to free the slaves to be considered a desperate move by a flagging Union cause, so he waited for a victory. And even though the bloody day of Antietam ended inconclusively, it was a strong enough pretext to issue his warning to the South – return to the Union in 100 days or all slaves held there would

be "forever free". The Confederates ignored the threat, and Lincoln delivered.

Before the Proclamation, slaves who ran away in search of safety in Northern army camps had been branded 'contraband' of war. This term, first used by Union General Benjamin Butler, meant runaway slaves would not be returned to their masters, but 'seized'. From 1 January 1863, however, those men and women were no longer seen by the law as another's property.



WAR CRIMINAL?

Historians have debated whether Sherman's March to Sea was legal for years. Some claim it constitutes a war crime, while others say that Sherman was acting within 'hard war' tactics seen throughout the American Civil War, just on a bigger scale.

SCORCHED EARTH SHERMAN'S MARCH TO THE SEA

After a series of long and hard-won battles, William T Sherman captured Confederate Atlanta, Georgia – a railway and industrial hub nicknamed the 'Gate City of the South' – in September 1864. As Grant had won his Overland Campaign in Virginia, the North held the military advantage.

But there was one thing that had to be beaten before the war ended. The Southerner's will. So on 15 November, Sherman marched 62,000 men out of Atlanta on a 300-mile march to the coast, laying waste to Georgia as they went. His aim, in his own words, was to "make Georgia howl".

Deep in enemy territory without even supply lines, Sherman split his armies into two wings, creating a 50-mile wide, blue-clad column. As well as destroying military targets, this unstoppable force looted homes, raided farms, burned buildings (sometimes whole towns), slaughtered or seized livestock – including the dogs used to track runaway slaves – and stole valuables. There were cases of murder and



rape, but Sherman dealt with those severely. He was willing to go to extreme lengths to crush the South, but not eradicate it.

When his March to the Sea concluded on 21 December, Sherman sent a telegraph to President Lincoln, reading: "I beg to present you, as a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah with 150 heavy guns and plenty of ammunition, and also about 25,000 bales of cotton."

The bold, brutal campaign racked up an estimated \$100 million in damages and left Georgia not howling, but whimpering. Sherman, however, wasn't finished. Early in 1865, he turned his attention to South Carolina (the first state to secede). If anything, the destruction on his way to Charleston was even more intense.

GLORY IN BATTLE

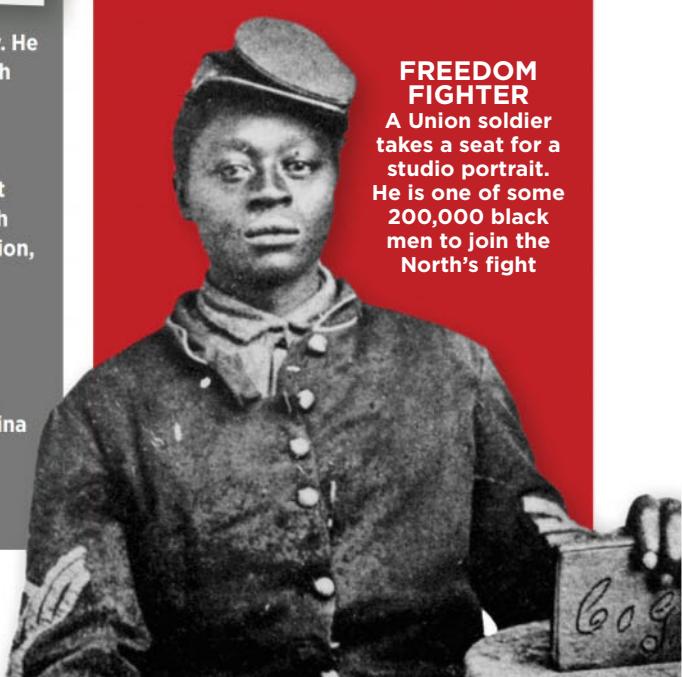
WHEN SLAVES BECAME SOLDIERS

In terms of the war, the impact of the Emancipation Proclamation was twofold. It weakened the Confederacy while, at the same time, strengthening the Union. This was because tens of thousands of black men fled the South in order to serve in the Army of the Potomac. By the end of the war, there were around 180,000 black soldiers, and another 20,000 in the navy.

They served in segregated regiments, the United States Colored Troops (USCT), alongside other non-whites such as the 28,693 Native Americans who fought in the war. At first, black fighting men were paid less, as privates earned \$10 a month (minus \$3 for their uniform) compared to the \$13 being paid to whites. Risking being caught by Southerners and put into slavery, the USCT demonstrated great valour. At the Battle of Fort Wagner on 18 July 1863, the 54th Massachusetts lost nearly half of its men storming a Confederate stronghold. Sergeant William Harvey Carney would be awarded the Medal of Honor for protecting the US flag when its bearer fell during the battle, reportedly shouting, "Boys, the old flag never touched the ground!"

FREEDOM FIGHTER

A Union soldier takes a seat for a studio portrait. He is one of some 200,000 black men to join the North's fight



5

COUNTDOWN TO UNION VICTORY

Although the war was in its final days by 1865, there was still a lot of work to be done

For war weary, dispirited and grieving Americans – Yankee and Confederate alike – the dawn of 1865 brought with it only the prospect of more war. Even with hopes of a Southern victory diminished, it was up to Union forces to crush the last remnants of resilience before the land and people could again know peace.

JANUARY

After his comfortable re-election last November (having run against his former general-in-chief turned ‘peace candidate’ George B McClellan), Lincoln gave new impetus to ending slavery

– thereby enshrining the Union cause as a moral crusade. He rushed through the 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery, by procuring votes from ‘lame duck’ Democrats with offers of government posts. On 31 January, the Amendment passed by two votes.

FEBRUARY

Along with his Secretary of State, William Seward, Lincoln met with a Confederate delegation for peace talks aboard the steamboat *River Queen* on 3 February, but the conference soon collapsed. A couple of weeks later, Sherman’s troops sacked Columbia in South Carolina, razing the city.

“THE WAR CLAIMED AN ESTIMATED 750,000 LIVES AND CAUSED A SCHISM IN THE COUNTRY THAT CAN STILL BE FELT TO THIS DAY”



ARMS LAID DOWN

Confederate weapons are stacked following defeat at the Battle of Appomattox Court House, April 1865

MARCH

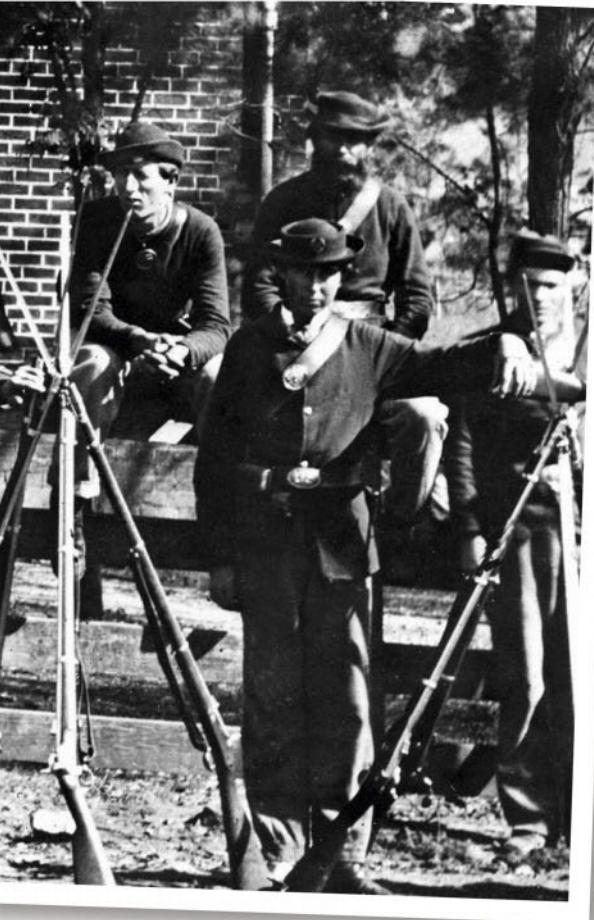
Lincoln was inaugurated in front of a large crowd on 4 March, where he gave one of his finest speeches. During his six- or seven-minute address, he spoke of rebuilding the country, made a gesture of reconciliation to the South, and decried the evils of slavery once more.

On 13 March, in a desperate attempt to fill their ranks, the Confederate Congress allowed the conscription of black troops – but the North continued to make gains.

SMALL TALK

At the Appomattox Court House on 9 April, Grant and Lee exchanged pleasantries for a few minutes before talk turned to business – Lee’s surrender





ONE MORE CASUALTY LINCOLN ASSASSINATED

Having been at war for pretty much his entire presidency, Lincoln was cruelly deprived of the chance to see his country united and rebuilt, when an assassin's bullet took his life.

On 14 April 1865, only five days after Lee's surrender, the President – described as being in an ebullient mood – and his wife Mary travelled the few blocks from the White House to take in a play at Ford's Theatre. As they enjoyed the comedy, *Our American Cousin*, Confederate sympathiser John Wilkes Booth snuck into the presidential box and shot Lincoln in the head with a derringer pistol. He escaped, despite breaking his leg, but was later hunted down.

Lincoln died nine hours after the point-blank-range shot to the head, surrounded by



DEATH OF A PRESIDENT

As Lincoln died, with members of his cabinet around him, a man-hunt was underway for the conspirators. **RIGHT:** Hefty rewards led to the capture and killing of John Wilkes Booth

his cabinet colleagues.

At the moment of his passing, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton famously uttered the words: "Now he belongs to the ages". The nation mourned this latest and greatest sacrifice made for the Union cause.

Lincoln had won the war – it was up to the new President, Andrew Johnson, to secure the peace.



APRIL

A Union victory neared with the capture of the Confederate capital of Richmond on 2 April. "Thank God I have lived to see this," cried Lincoln. "It seems to me that I have been dreaming a horrid dream for four years, and now the nightmare is gone." A week later, on 9 April, Grant met with Lee in the drawing room of Appomattox Court House, Virginia, to discuss surrender. Although this effectively ended the war, it wouldn't be until July that the final Confederate forces surrendered.

The American Civil War was over, having claimed an estimated 750,000 lives and caused a schism in the country that can still be felt to this day. Who knows how different the 19th and 20th centuries would have been around the world had the South won. Yet the odds were always against their 'Lost Cause'. The North could suffer staggering casualties and still replenish their armies; they utilised greater resources, such as the railroad, ships and telegraph; their cause took on moral consequences rather than just political; and, in Lincoln, they had a leader who refused to fail.

RECONSTRUCTION NEW AMERICA

With the country united again, there were vital questions concerning how Southerners should be reconciled with the Union, what political changes needed to be made and, most pressing, what should happen to the 4 million former slaves.

President Andrew Johnson wanted to return things to the prewar ('antebellum') status quo, minus slavery. So his plans for 'Reconstruction' entailed pardoning most Southerners and allowing them to form power-bases again, as long as they abolished slavery, rejected secession and revoked Confederate debt. This was an invitation for Southerners to impose restrictive laws, called 'black codes', on former slaves. In essence, black workers were forced into a new kind of enslavement.

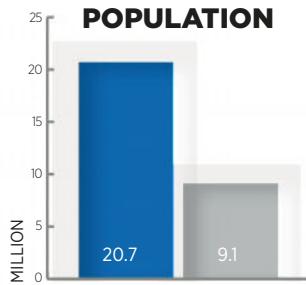
Johnson's policies were replaced, in 1867 with those of the 'Radical Reconstruction', which gave a political voice to blacks for the first time. The 14th Amendment gave citizenship, while the 15th gave the vote.

Resentment grew as the federal government increasingly interfered. The displeasure was exacerbated by 'scalawags' (Southerners supporting Reconstruction policies) and the 'carpetbaggers' (corrupt Northerners making a profit at the South's expense). The result was violence and the creation of white supremacist groups like the Ku Klux Klan. By 1867, the government retreated from Reconstruction, leaving race relations to worsen – a condition that has shaped the country ever since.

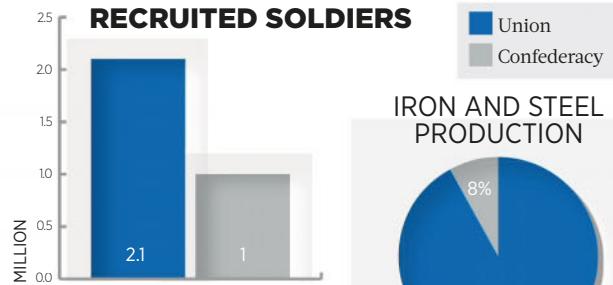
WHAT GAVE THE NORTH THE EDGE?

When war broke out in 1861, the numbers were all in the blue...

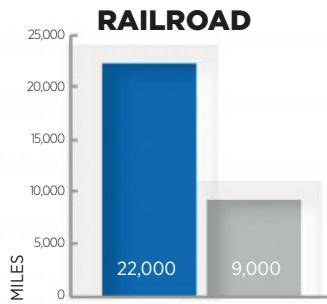
POPULATION



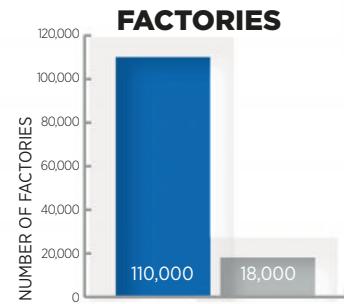
RECRUITED SOLDIERS



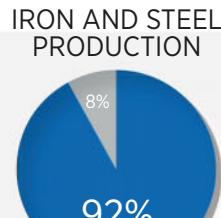
RAILROAD



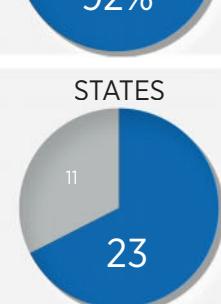
FACTORIES



IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTION



STATES



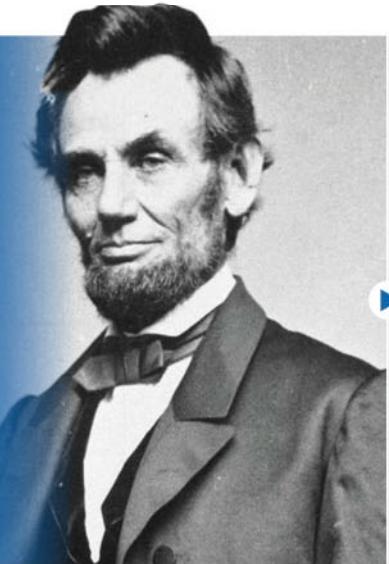


TIMELINE The Battle Cry

The Civil War transformed the United States in four brutal years, and laid

6 NOVEMBER 1860

Abraham Lincoln, leader of the Republican Party, is elected President of the United States. This is the trigger for seven Southern states to secede and form the Confederacy, pushing the slave-free North and slave-holding South to civil war.



12 APRIL 1861

The first shots of the American Civil War are fired at Fort Sumter, South Carolina, less than a month after President Lincoln enters the White House. The Confederate troops take the Fort from Union control.

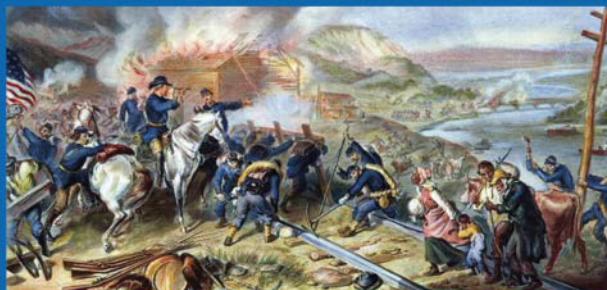


8 NOVEMBER 1861

With fighting underway, Union frigate *San Jacinto* intercepts the British mail ship *Trent*, and finds two Confederate envoys on board. When threatened with war by Britain, Lincoln releases them, saying "One war at a time". The crisis hurts the South's chances of gaining foreign support.

1 SEPTEMBER 1864

Union troops under William T Sherman lay siege to Atlanta, Georgia. Confederate defenders quickly abandon the city once they cut the supply lines. From Atlanta, Sherman embarks on his infamous March to the Sea.



5 MAY 1864

With 115,000 men, Grant launches his Overland Campaign in Virginia. He meets Lee's 62,000-strong force in dense thickets, where they become embroiled in two days of fighting. Grant eventually disengages to pursue another route.

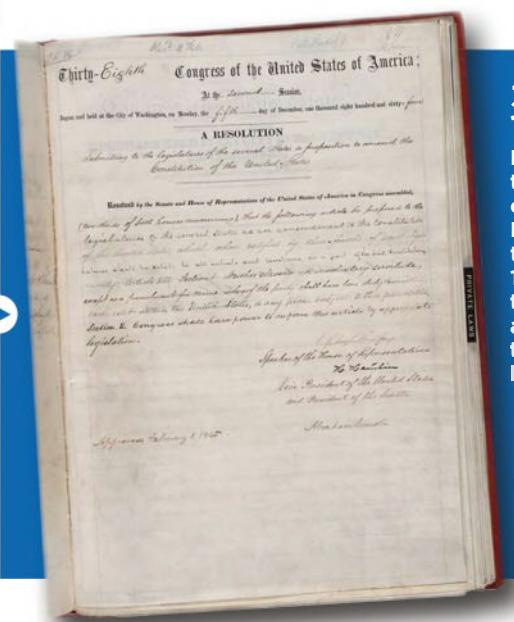


8 MARCH 1864

After a number of overly cautious or ineffective generals, Lincoln finds the military commander who shares his vision, Ulysses S Grant. The General once said of the President: "God gave us Lincoln and liberty, let us fight for both."

8 NOVEMBER 1864

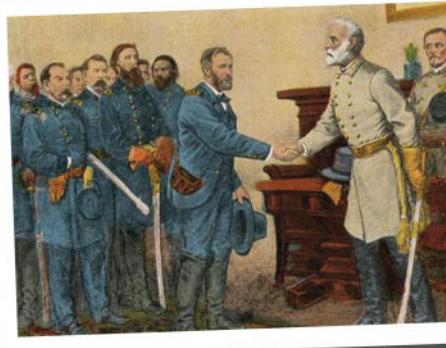
On the back of some strategic victories, Lincoln sweeps to his re-election. He confirms his commitment to seeing the war through to its conclusion. His inaugural speech in March is considered one of his best.



31 JANUARY 1865

Rather than wait for the new Republican-controlled Congress, Lincoln pushes through the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery, to accentuate bipartisan support.

The 13th Amendment to the US constitution, complete with Lincoln's signature



9 APRIL 1865

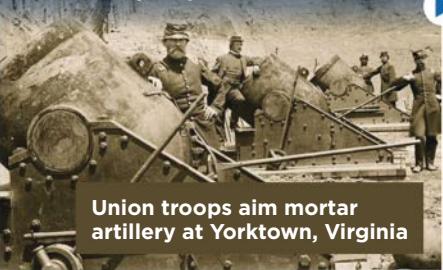
At Appomattox Court House in Virginia, Grant accepts Lee's surrender. Such is the respect between the two military behemoths that they salute each other before departing.

of Freedom

the foundations for its status as a global power

4 APRIL 1862

The Peninsular Campaign - a Union offensive to capture the Confederate capital of Richmond in Virginia - begins. Under George B McClellan's command, the Army of the Potomac eventually retreats in early July.



Union troops aim mortar artillery at Yorktown, Virginia

1 JUNE 1862

The South's brilliant general, Robert E Lee, is given command of the Confederate army, which he immediately renames the Army of Northern Virginia.



17 SEPTEMBER 1862

There are over 20,000 casualties at the Battle of Antietam, the bloodiest single day in America's history. Although it ends indecisively, it inspires Lincoln to issue his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, which frees all the slaves in rebel states. It comes into effect on New Year's Day, 1863.

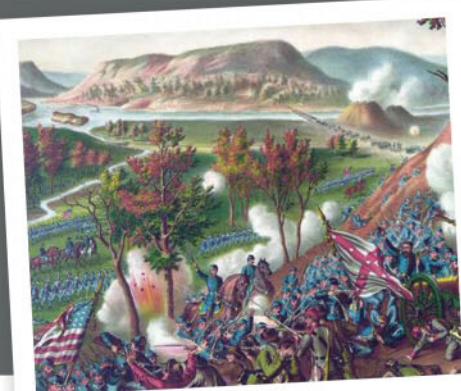


19-20 SEPTEMBER 1863

Confederate General Braxton Bragg inflicts a crushing defeat on Union forces at the Battle of Chickamauga, ending an initially successful campaign in the western theatre.

25 NOVEMBER 1863

Union forces bring the Chattanooga Campaign to a victorious resolution at a battle on the Tennessee River.



19 NOVEMBER 1863

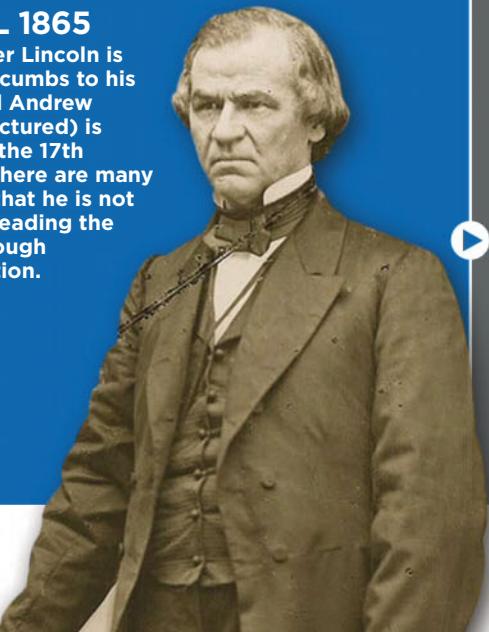
To dedicate a national cemetery on the site of the Battle of Gettysburg, where more than 7,000 troops perished, Lincoln gives a short speech. Despite lasting just two minutes, the Gettysburg Address becomes one of the most important pieces of oratory in American history, ending with the now-immortal lines: "We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain - that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the Earth."



Lincoln is pictured in the Gettysburg crowd moments before his now-famous address

15 APRIL 1865

The day after Lincoln is shot, he succumbs to his injuries, and Andrew Johnson (pictured) is sworn in as the 17th President. There are many who worry that he is not capable of leading the country through Reconstruction.



23-24 MAY 1865

To mark the end of the war, a parade makes its way through Washington DC. Some 80,000 men of the Army of the Potomac march down Pennsylvania Avenue on the first day of the 'Grand Review of Armies' alone, followed by over 65,000 of the Army of the Georgia. The streets are filled with jubilant crowds.



ANCHORS AWAY

The boating lake at the Festival of Britain Pleasure Grounds in London's Battersea Park – where the less serious festival activities take place – proves a popular draw as Britons, after years of austerity and stringency, joyfully take to the water.

A TONIC FOR THE NATION

In 1951, the Festival of Britain invited the whole country to welcome a bright, progress-filled future

CAPITAL GAINS

With the Festival approaching in May, London's South Bank undergoes a rather dramatic makeover in 1951

AT A GLANCE

Held exactly 100 years after the Great Exhibition of 1851, the Festival of Britain was an attempt to pull the country out of its postwar slump and to celebrate an imminent era of reconstruction. Held over a four-month period, it saluted British endeavour in the fields of science, technology, the arts, architecture and engineering.



NO PLACE LIKE DOME

What would become the centrepiece of the entire festival, the Dome of Discovery nears completion as construction workers make finishing touches to its 111 metre-wide dome. Once open, the building will house a range of exhibits about British discovery and exploration.



BIRD'S EYE VIEW

The dome - located between Waterloo Station and the Thames - dominates this part of the capital. Its life is short, though, as it is demolished for scrap in 1952. The site becomes Jubilee Gardens in 1977.



OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Curious visitors make a beeline for the South Bank site. In the distance is the Skylon, a 90m-high structure, which becomes the symbol of the Festival. It too is demolished the following year on the instructions of newly re-elected Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who regards the event as synonymous with the previous Labour government's vision of a socialist Britain. He orders the site, bar the Royal Festival Hall, to be flattened.

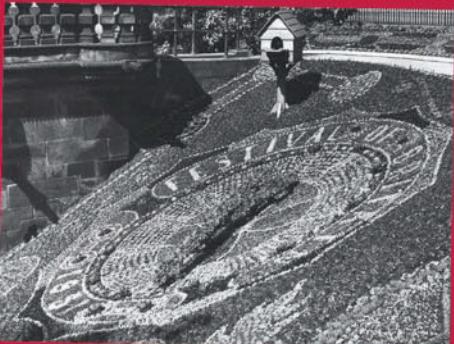
ONE NATION

How the Festival is celebrated outside the capital...



BALANCING ACT

To spread the festive spirit across the country, renovations and building work is carried out in many towns and cities, from Bournemouth to Inverness. In Brighton, a pair of stonemasons get to work on the iconic domed roof of the Royal Pavilion.



FLOWER POWER

The floral clock in Princes Gardens in central Edinburgh – a familiar sight in the Scottish capital since its introduction in 1903 – is given a makeover to commemorate the imminent Festival.

MODEL BEHAVIOUR

Fashion models from the Festival's Land Travelling Exhibition line up outside Manchester's City Hall. The touring exhibition, taking British style and design as its theme, visits Leeds, Birmingham and Nottingham. *The Guardian* describes it as being "a series of magnificent shop windows".



CRAZY CREATION

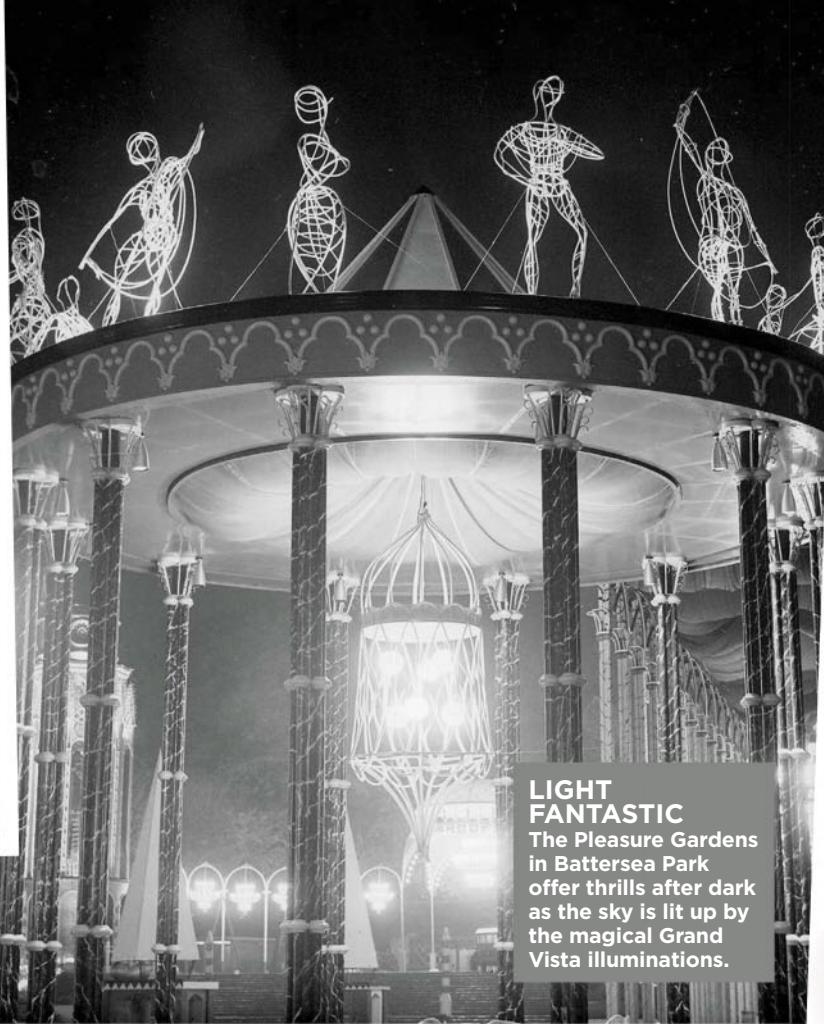
As well as innovation, the Festival also celebrates Great British eccentricity. This 'travel machine' is the brainchild of inventor and sculptor Rowland Emett, a man whose whimsical creations would later grace the big screen in the film *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*.



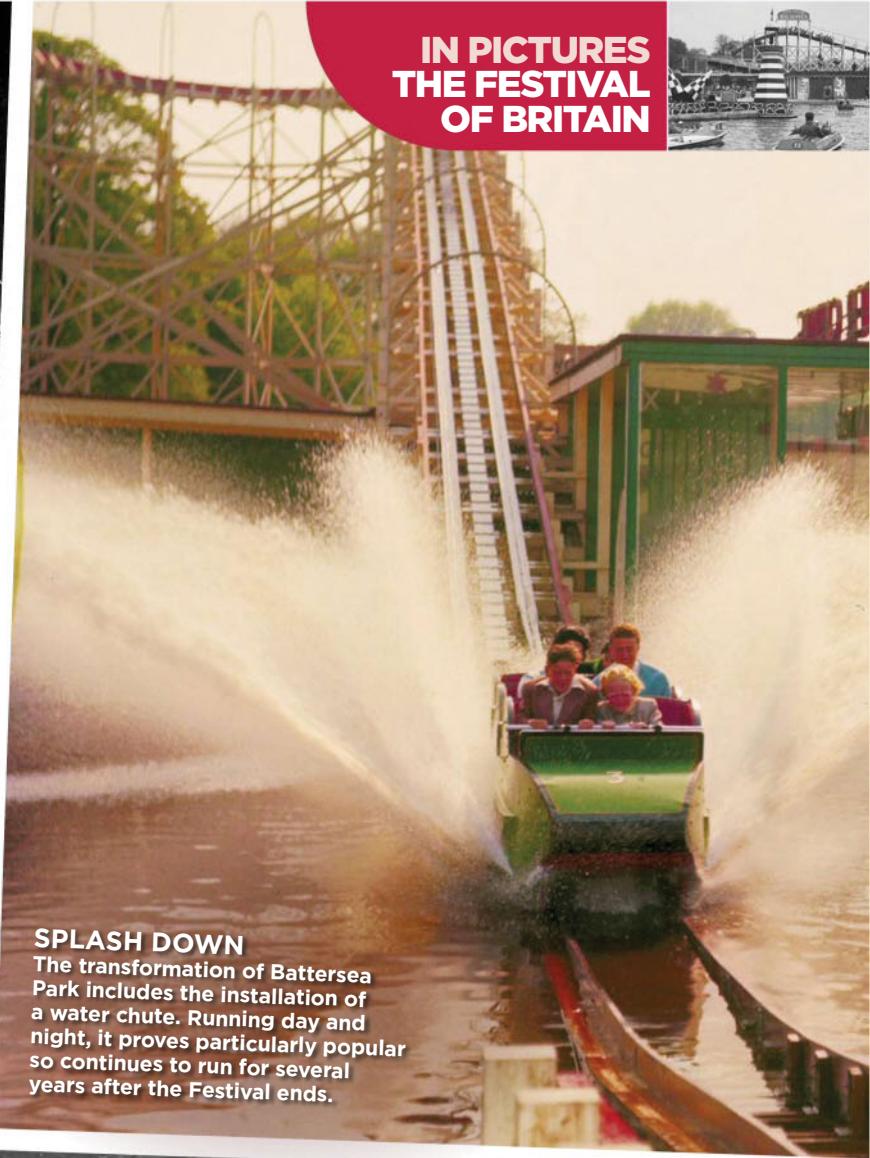
FESTIVAL OF SPEED

In May 1951, at Goodwood motor racing circuit in Sussex, the world's top race drivers compete for the Festival of Britain Trophy. Described by *Motor Sport* magazine as "one of the best races ever", the contest is won by the British driver Reg Parnell, who achieves a new lap record on his way to victory.



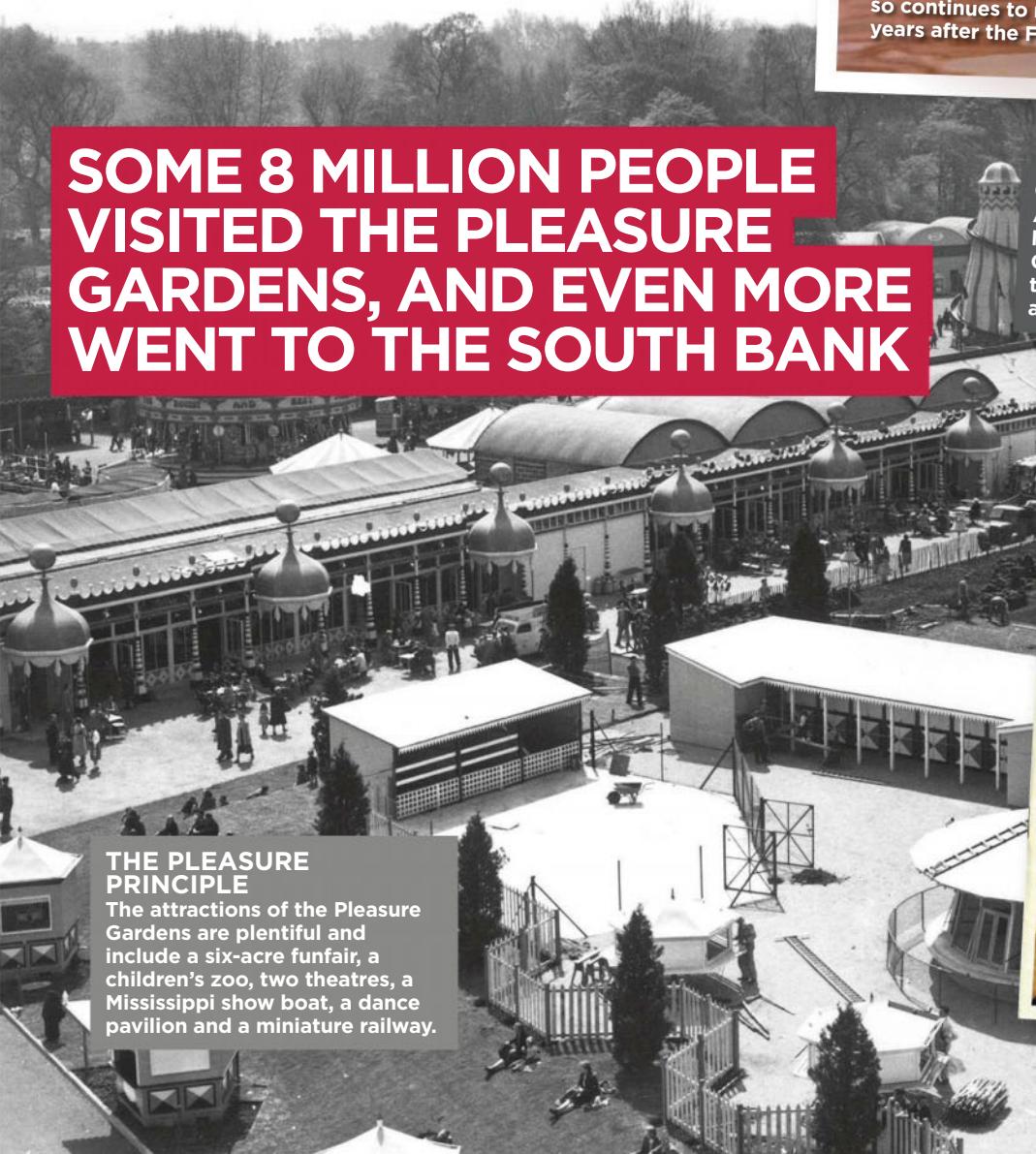


LIGHT FANTASTIC
The Pleasure Gardens in Battersea Park offer thrills after dark as the sky is lit up by the magical Grand Vista illuminations.



SPLASH DOWN
The transformation of Battersea Park includes the installation of a water chute. Running day and night, it proves particularly popular so continues to run for several years after the Festival ends.

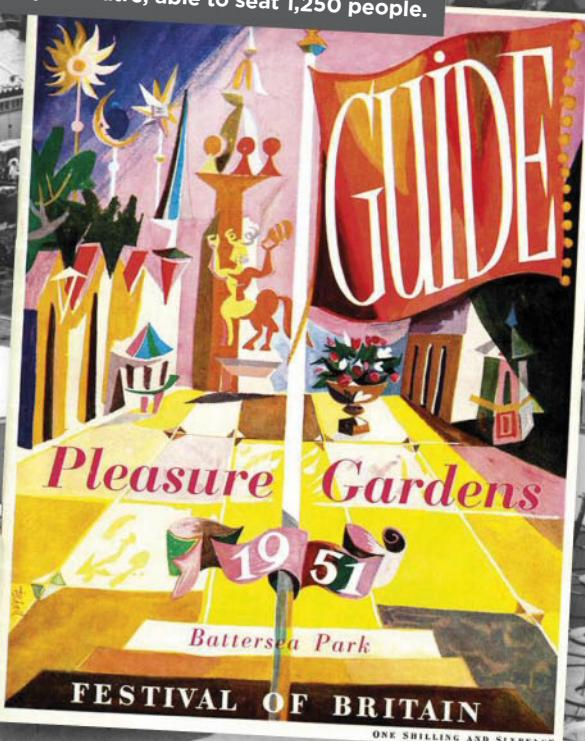
SOME 8 MILLION PEOPLE VISITED THE PLEASURE GARDENS, AND EVEN MORE WENT TO THE SOUTH BANK



THE PLEASURE PRINCIPLE

The attractions of the Pleasure Gardens are plentiful and include a six-acre funfair, a children's zoo, two theatres, a Mississippi show boat, a dance pavilion and a miniature railway.

GET WITH THE PROGRAMME
An official Festival guide suggests a host of colourful, exciting attractions. One such draw for the hundreds of thousands of visitors is a grand amphitheatre, able to seat 1,250 people.



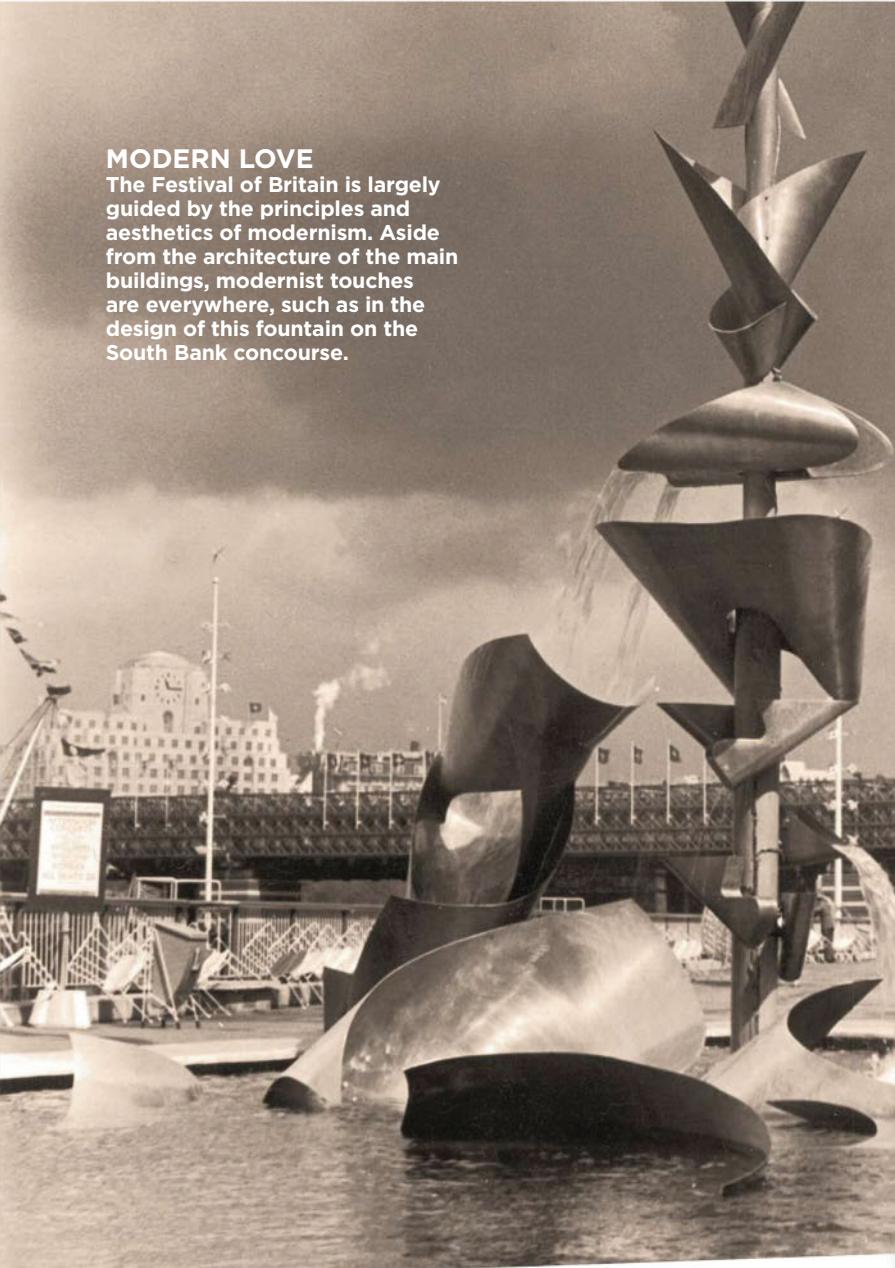
DIZZY DRIVERS

For those brave enough to put the best of British technology and engineering to the test, the Festival offers a round trip with these gravity-defying miniature cars.

THE FESTIVAL WAS
A CHANCE FOR THE
LONG-SUFFERING
BRITISH TO LET
THEIR HAIR DOWN

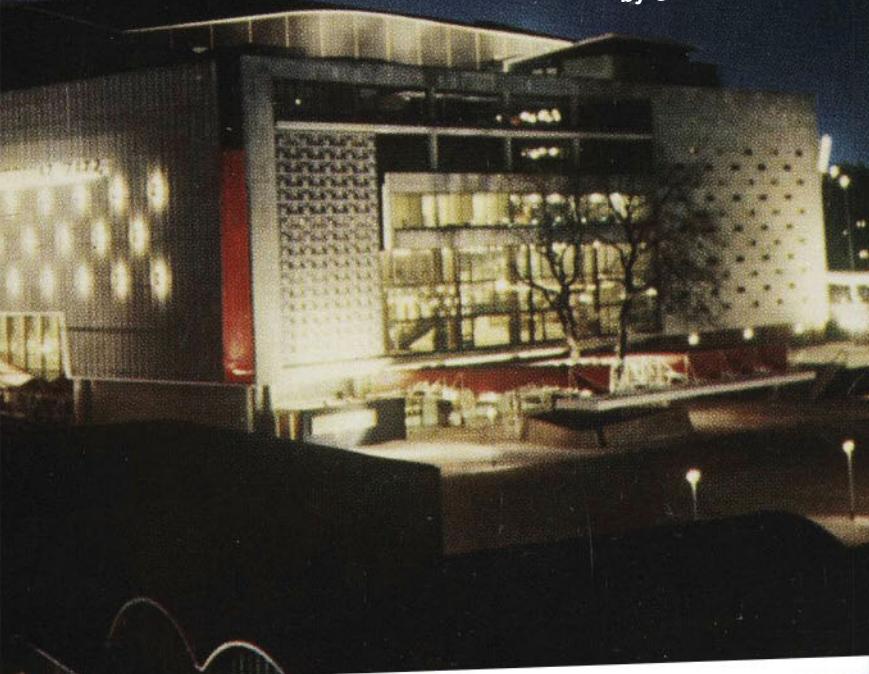
MODERN LOVE

The Festival of Britain is largely guided by the principles and aesthetics of modernism. Aside from the architecture of the main buildings, modernist touches are everywhere, such as in the design of this fountain on the South Bank concourse.



SOLE SURVIVOR

Built on the site of the old Lion Brewery, the Royal Festival Hall is constructed at a cost of £2 million. It remains the only structure on the Festival's South Bank site still standing. In 1981, it becomes the first postwar building to be protected by Grade I listed status.



FOND FAREWELL

Fireworks are released into the London skies at the Festival's closing ceremony. Present is the Archbishop of Canterbury, who declares the event to have "set the standard by which we shall face the future". The South Bank site's own future, however, is soon settled by Churchill's wrecking ball.

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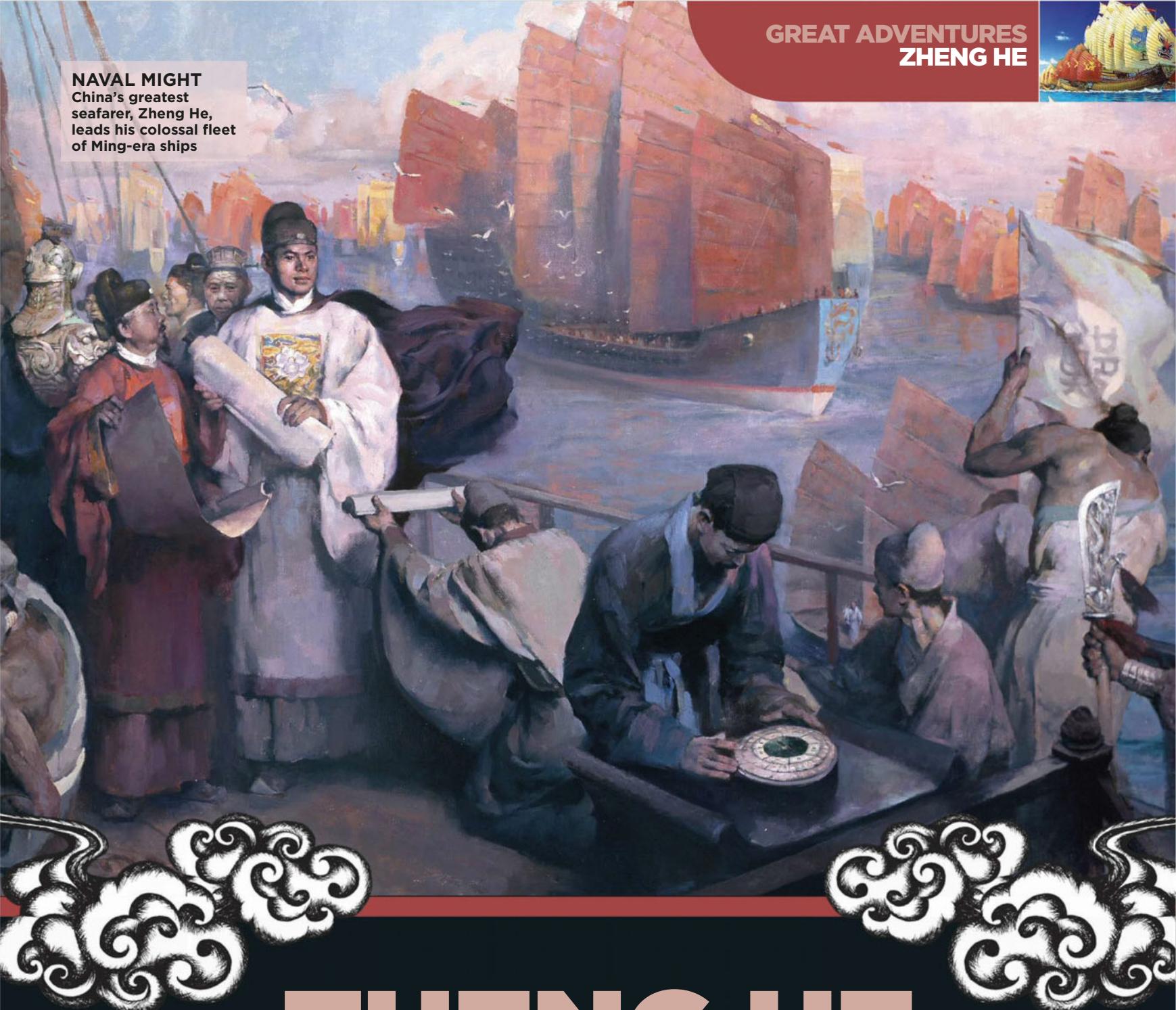
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NAVAL MIGHT

China's greatest seafarer, Zheng He, leads his colossal fleet of Ming-era ships



ZHENG HE AND HIS TREASURE FLEET

Six centuries ago, a towering Chinese eunuch led a fleet of enormous ships to India, Arabia and beyond – **Pat Kinsella** follows Zheng He's treasure-ship armada



GREAT ADVENTURES ZHENG HE

During the reign of China's Yongle Emperor in 1403, an imperial order was issued to begin the construction of a fleet of super-ships – vessels vastly bigger than anything ever seen before. Officially called Xiafan Guanjun ('The Foreign Expeditionary Armada'), the behemoth boats would become better known as the Ming Empire's treasure ships.

Capable of carrying as many as 1,000 men, some of these ships were purportedly 137 metres long, 55 metres wide, several stories high, and each boasted nine masts with 12 sails. They dwarfed contemporary European ships – by comparison, Christopher Columbus's flagship, the *Santa María*, built 60 years later, measured just 18 metres from bow to stern.

Overseeing this immense shipbuilding project on the banks of the Qinhua River was Zheng He, a eunuch who wielded enormous power, and who was himself a huge physical presence, standing well over 6-feet tall. He would become the Admiral of this imperial fleet, leading the floating city of sails on seven far-ranging expeditions around the South China Sea and across the Indian Ocean.

Although the treasure ships usually left China together, as an awe-inspiring fleet, separate squadrons under the command of sub-admirals – such as the eunuchs Hong Bao and Zhou Man – often detached from the main force to visit other destinations, maximising the impact of the missions.

But what was the Emperor trying to achieve with this flexing of maritime muscle, and why would he place such naval power in the hands of a common-born former-prisoner, mutilated as a child, who hailed from an ethnic minority of Muslim, mountain-dwelling inlanders?

HE BOY TO HE MAN

China's greatest seafarer was born several weeks' journey from the nearest coast, in the mountains of Central Asia. Named Ma He, he was brought up as a Hui Muslim. The Chinese army, leading an invasion against the Mongols, overran his hometown in 1382. His father was killed in the fighting, and the ten-year-old boy was captured. Ritually castrated, he was trained as an imperial eunuch, renamed San Bao (meaning 'Three Jewels') and dispatched to the court of Zhu Di – Prince of Yan and fourth son of Zhu Yuanzhang, the Hongwu Emperor, who founded the Ming dynasty – in Beiping (modern-day Beijing).

During the next two decades, against a backdrop of near-constant violent conflict with the Mongols and complex political shenanigans within the Ming dynasty, the young San Bao repeatedly distinguished himself with valour, loyalty and intelligence. He rose through the ranks to become the most trusted lieutenant of Zhu Di, who bestowed him with the honorary name Zheng

THE MAIN PLAYERS

ZHENG HE

Born in 1371 to a Muslim Hui family in today's Yunnan province, Ma He was captured by Chinese troops aged ten. He grew to be huge, standing over 6-feet tall. He probably died during his seventh journey, but some reports claim he lived until 1435. His empty tomb is in Nanjing.

ZHU DI

Prince of Yan and later third emperor of the Ming dynasty, the Yongle Emperor set up the treasure fleet, promoted Zheng He to the position of Admiral and ordered six expeditions.

WANG JINGHONG

Zheng He's second-in-command during the treasure voyages to south-east Asia, India, Sri Lanka, Arabia and East Africa between 1405 and 1433.

FEI XIN

Accompanied Zheng He on four of the voyages, including the seventh, and subsequently wrote *Xingcha Shenglan* (Description of the Starry Raft), a first-person account of his experiences.

A TRAVELLER'S LIFE

BELLOW: The honoured Admiral Zheng He (in white) is welcomed home after one of his missions **BELLOW, INSET:** Zhu Di, the Yongle Emperor who commissioned the fleet **RIGHT:** An ivory bas-relief in Java celebrates the landing of the Admiral's treasure fleet **FAR RIGHT:** A c1754 world map, copied from one believed to have been compiled on Zheng He's expeditions



SHIPS AND STARS

MAIN: Sketches of Zheng He's treasure ships – each of the larger vessels boasted 12 sails
LEFT: One of a set of maps, or 'star charts', of Zheng He's maritime expeditions to the Indian Ocean, reproduced in the 1628 Mao Kun book of maps



317

The number of ships in
Zheng He's first fleet,
which had a crew
totalling almost
28,000

He after some remarkable heroics at the Battle of Zhenglunba.

In 1402, Zhu Di unseated his nephew Zhu Yunwen (the Jianwen Emperor) from the Dragon Throne and became the Yongle Emperor. Immediately, he set about breaking the explicit instructions of his father, who had forbidden military expeditions into foreign lands. The new ruler commissioned the treasure fleet and made his chief eunuch Admiral of the expeditionary armada.

Debate still rages over the primary purpose of the journeys, which were more like intimidating visits than overt invasions.

The end result was that China secured lucrative trading routes, quashed large-scale piracy and received generous tariffs and unquestioning fealty from frightened foreign leaders all around the region. Some historians have argued that the whole exercise was an enormously elaborate manhunt to track down Zhu Di's predecessor Zhu

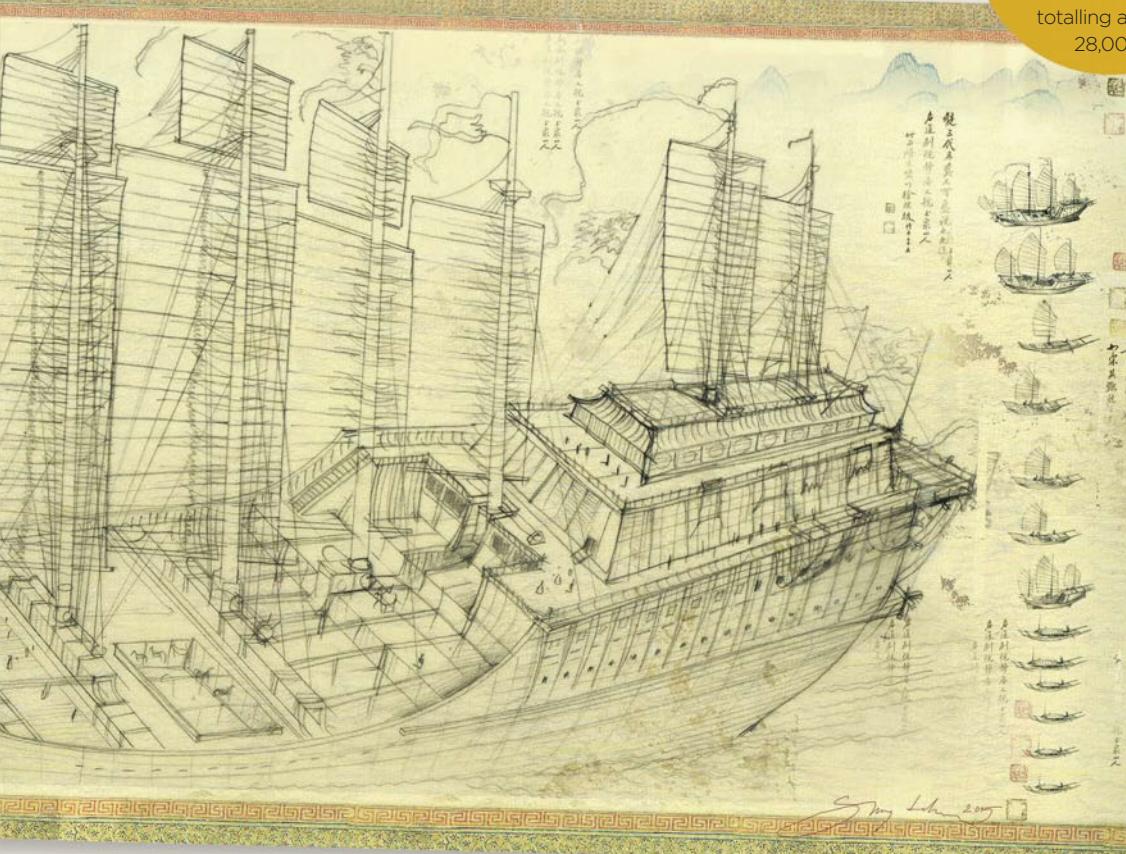
Yunwen, who possibly escaped death during the coup that overthrew him.

Whatever else he intended to achieve, the Yongle Emperor clearly wanted to show the entire known world who was boss. And his right-hand man throughout this was Admiral Zheng He, who was so trusted he was given blank scrolls and the Emperor's seal, so he could issue imperial orders at sea.

EARLY VOYAGES

Accompanied by his deputy, Wang Jinghong, and 27,000 men, Zheng He departed Nanjing on his first voyage in 1405 (see point 1 on map overleaf). Travelling through the Chinese Sea, they sat out a monsoon in Taiping before heading south along the coasts of modern-day Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia, to reach Java. They then veered west through the Straits of Malacca and across the Bay of Bengal to Ceylon (present-day Sri Lanka), Quilon (now Kollam) and Calicut (Kozhikode) in Kerala, India.

The most significant engagement of this journey was the epic showdown at Palembang, Sumatra (2), with a huge mercenary force led by the infamous pirate king Chen Zuyi, who





GREAT ADVENTURES ZHENG HE

had long been terrorising shipping in the Strait of Malacca. In the ensuing battle, 5,000 pirates were killed and Chen Zuyi was captured and taken to Nanjing for execution.

The second expedition departed at the beginning of 1408, and followed a similar route – with stops at Calicut, Malacca, Semudera, Java, Siam, Champa and Quilon, to name but a few. One of the objectives of this voyage was to remind Java's Majapahit kings, who had just been forced to apologise and pay a fine for the killing of some Chinese officials, that the Empire was watching them. Zheng He also formally invested Mana Vikraan as the King of Calicut, and reaffirmed the relationship between China and India (3).

During the third journey (1409–11), Zheng He engaged in a battle with King Alakesvara of Ceylon (4), who had been menacing neighbouring countries that China enjoyed good diplomatic relations with. Alakesvara lured Zheng He and 2,000 of his troops inland towards the capital Kotte, and then cut off their lines to the treasure fleet. But the Chinese were not easily beaten. Their response was to attack the capital and wait for the Sinhalese troops to come back and protect it. The locals were defeated

and Alakesvara captured. He was eventually released, but the might of the Ming Empire had again been demonstrated.

By 1413, when the fleet left Nanjing to embark on its fourth trip, Admiral He had orders to truly test the range of the titanic treasure ships. After stops along the route of previous voyages, the fleet continued beyond Calicut to visit the Maldives and Laccadive Islands, and then Hormuz Island in the Persian Gulf (5).

In 1415, Zheng He paused while passing northern Sumatra to take action against the pretender to the throne of Semudera, Sekandar (6). The usurper had just ousted Sultan Zain al-'Abidin, whom the Chinese-supported. Zain al-'Abidin was restored to power while Sekandar was captured, taken back to the Ming Court and executed.

ACTS OF DIPLOMACY

Not everyone was dragged to China in chains, though. Many ambassadors were transported back to Beijing (which replaced Nanjing as the

capital under the Yongle Emperor) on the huge treasure ships, travelling in luxurious on-board staterooms complete with balconies, while carrying gifts for the Emperor.

The fifth journey saw the fleet tour the trading centres of Arabia and East Africa, landing at Aden, Mogadishu, Brava, Zhubu and Malindi (7). The treasure ships must have resembled arks during their return voyage, carrying tributes including exotic African animals such as lions, leopards, camels, ostriches, zebras, rhinoceros, antelopes and a giraffe from Malindi. The giraffe in particular provoked much excitement in the Ming court, where it was thought to be a qilin – a creature prominent in Chinese mythology that's sometimes compared to a unicorn, but more closely resembles a dragon-horse hybrid.

Once the tribute-bearing ambassadors had delivered their payload and acknowledged the power of the Emperor, they were returned home, with gifts (typically silk) for their respective leaders. The sixth journey, which departed in 1421, saw 16 such envoys returned to their home states (8). The treasure fleet travelled to Ceylon and then split up, with detached squadrons shooting off in various directions like sparks from an exploding firecracker.

By the early 1420s, the Yongle Emperor's focus was distracted from his treasure ships by conflicts erupting along China's land border to the north. The voyages were suspended and the fleet was docked in Nanjing from 1422 to 1431,

5,000
The number of pirates killed in a battle during Zheng He's first voyage.



while the men were used to fight campaigns against the Mongols.

In 1424, when Zheng He was on a diplomatic mission to Palembang, the Yongle Emperor died while personally leading one of these campaigns. His successor, Zhu Gaozhi (the Hongxi Emperor) aggressively terminated the treasure ship programme, grounding Zheng He by placing him in command of the city of Nanjing.

THE LAST TREASURE HUNT

The Hongxi Emperor's reign was short, however. Upon Zhu Gaozhi's death in 1425, Zhu Zhanji, the Xuande Emperor, came to power. He channelled finances into projects like the Great Bao'en Temple – aka the Porcelain Tower of Nanjing – which became a wonder of the modern world. But the new Emperor thirsted for more glory. He wanted a taste of the lucrative tributes that had flowed into the imperial coffers during his grandfather's reign. Zhu Zhanji issued orders for the treasure ships to make another voyage and, with Zheng He at the helm, they left Longwan ('Dragon Bay') in January 1431.

This seventh voyage would be the treasure fleet's last hurrah. The ships sailed along the Yangtze River and spent months visiting ports throughout the South China Sea. In March

1432, they arrived at Java, before proceeding to Palembang and travelling along the Musi River, through the Banca Strait, past the Lingga and Riau archipelagos – an area infested with pirates, but none powerful enough to trouble the treasure-ship armada – to reach Malacca in August 1432.

By September, the ships were in Semudera and, in November, they arrived at Beruwala in Ceylon. December saw them in Calicut, and then the fleet continued to Hormuz, where it remained until mid-March. According to the *Xia Xiyang*, they returned home from there, but other sources, such as the first-hand account of fleet member Fei Xin, describe a much bigger voyage, with at least some of the ships visiting destinations including Bengal, the Maldives, Djofar, Lasa, Andaman and Nicobar islands, Aden, Brava, Mogadishu and Mecca (9). Another scribe present on the expedition, Ma Huan, wrote about the Tianfang (Heavenly Cube) in Mecca, referring to the Qa'aba.

It's believed Zheng He died during this seventh expedition and was buried at sea, but details are surprisingly scant. After its return, the fleet was decommissioned and the extraordinary treasure ships were left to rot. The world would not see an armada of comparable size again until the 20th century. ☀

GREAT LENGTHS

Zheng He wasn't navigating uncharted waters – trade routes had been established for centuries – but the magnitude of his missions set his expeditions apart. There was a strong military presence amid his huge crew, as well as a team of astrologers to record and process astronomical data. Part of Zheng He's legacy was the creation of Chinese Muslim communities in Palembang, Java, the Malay Peninsula and the Philippines.

1 JULY 1405 Nanjing

The fleet departs Nanjing after ceremonies and sacrifices to Tianfei, the Chinese goddess of sailors. They shelter from a monsoon in the mouth of the Min River before leaving through the Wuhumen (Five Tiger Passage), then on via Champa (in modern Vietnam), Java, the Strait of Malacca and the Indian Ocean to reach Ceylon (Sri Lanka).

2 1407 Palembang, Sumatra Island

While returning from the first expedition, Zheng He goes into battle with the large pirate forces of Chen Zuyi. The treasure fleet is victorious, 5,000 pirates are killed, ten pirate ships are destroyed and seven more are captured.

3 1408 Calicut

During the second voyage, which left Nanjing in late 1407 or early 1408, Zheng He formally invests Mana Vikraan as the King of Calicut, and the relationship between China and India is reaffirmed.

4 1411 Ceylon

The third journey, which begins from Liujiagang in 1409, results in an armed confrontation with King Alakesvara of Ceylon. Despite having up to 50,000 troops, the Sinhalese army is defeated by Zheng He, who takes Alakesvara back to China as a captive.

5 1414 Hormuz Island

During the fourth voyage, Zheng He pushes the treasure ships further west, visiting the Maldives and Laccadive Islands in the Indian Ocean and venturing as far as Hormuz Island in the Persian Gulf.

6 1415 Semudera Pasai Sultanate, northern Sumatra

Zheng He intervenes in Semudera, where the pretender Sekandar has deposed the Chinese-supported Sultan, Zain al-'Abidin. Sekandar is captured and Zain al-'Abidin is restored to the throne.

7 1417-18 Malindi, Africa

The fifth expedition leaves Nanjing in 1417, returning 18 ambassadors to their homelands. The fleet then travels down the East African coast to Mogadishu and Malindi, collecting more ambassadors, tariffs and exotic gifts – including a giraffe – for the Emperor.

8 1421 Indian Ocean

Leaving China in 1421, the sixth voyage sees the fleet travel to Ceylon where it splits into squadrons. Ships head to southern India; the Maldives and Laccadive Islands; Hormuz at the Persian Gulf; the Arabian states of Djofar, Lasa, and Aden; and Mogadishu and Brava in Africa.

9 1433 Mecca

Following the orders of the new Xuande Emperor, Zheng He's final expedition leaves Longwan in January 1431, travelling right across the South China Sea and Indian Ocean, visiting multiple ports. At least one squadron, with the Muslim writer Ma Huan aboard, reaches Mecca.

GET HOOKED

READ

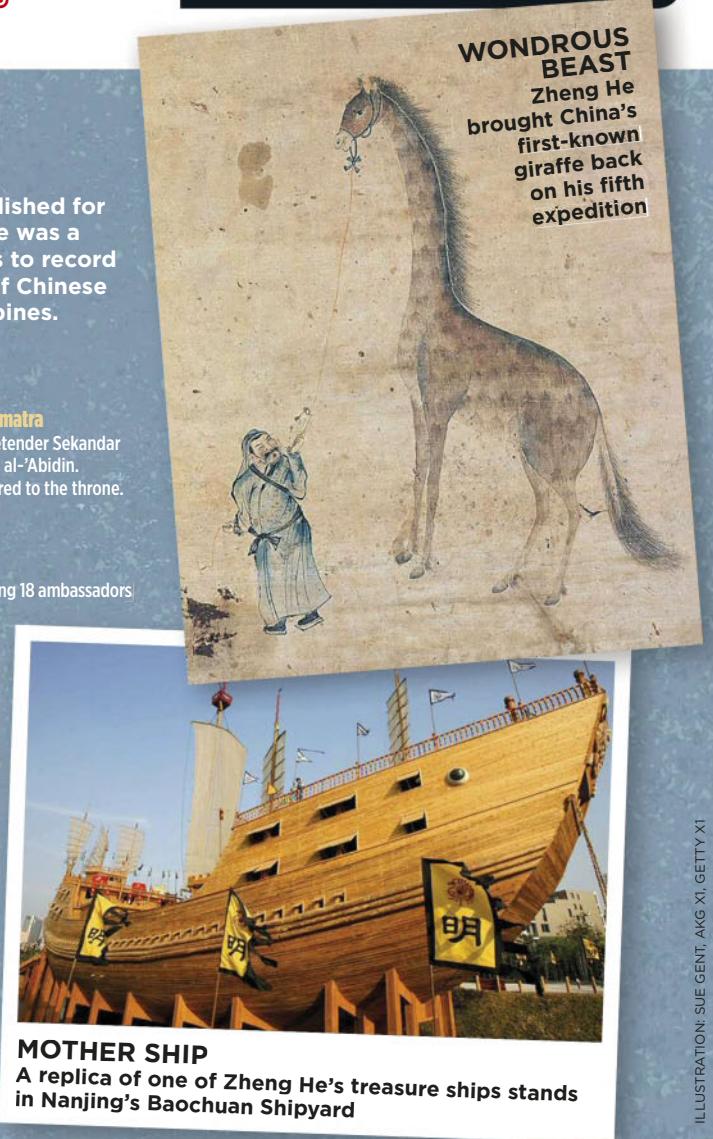
Zheng He: China and the Oceans in the Early Ming Dynasty, 1405-1433
by Edward L Dreyer

WATCH

China's Forgotten Admiral – A documentary downloadable from the BBC: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02sd73s

AFTER THE FLEET

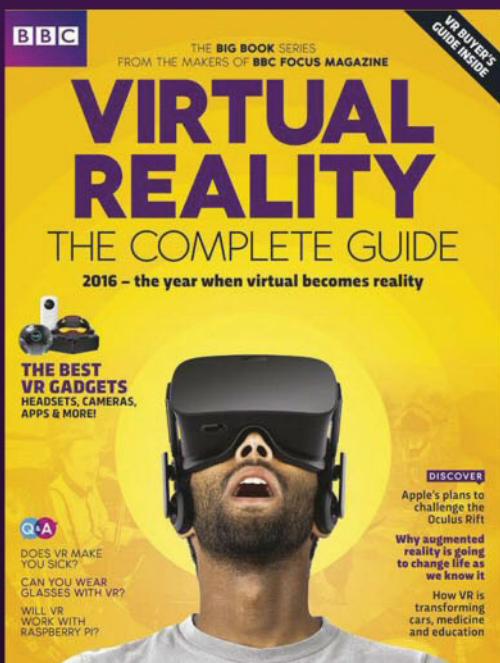
Under the Xuande Emperor, the eunuchs – who'd been so powerful in the reign of the Yongle Emperor – were usurped by civil officials, and the voyages were almost written out of history. The treasure ships were left to rot and the Ming Empire reverted to the principles of its founder, investing in inward-looking and defensive projects, such as the continuation of the Great Wall. The decline of the imperial navy after Zheng He's voyages left the Chinese coast very vulnerable to Japanese Wokou ('dwarf pirates'), and created a power vacuum in the Indian Ocean that the Portuguese, once explorer Vasco da Gama found his way around the Cape of Good Hope, gratefully exploited.



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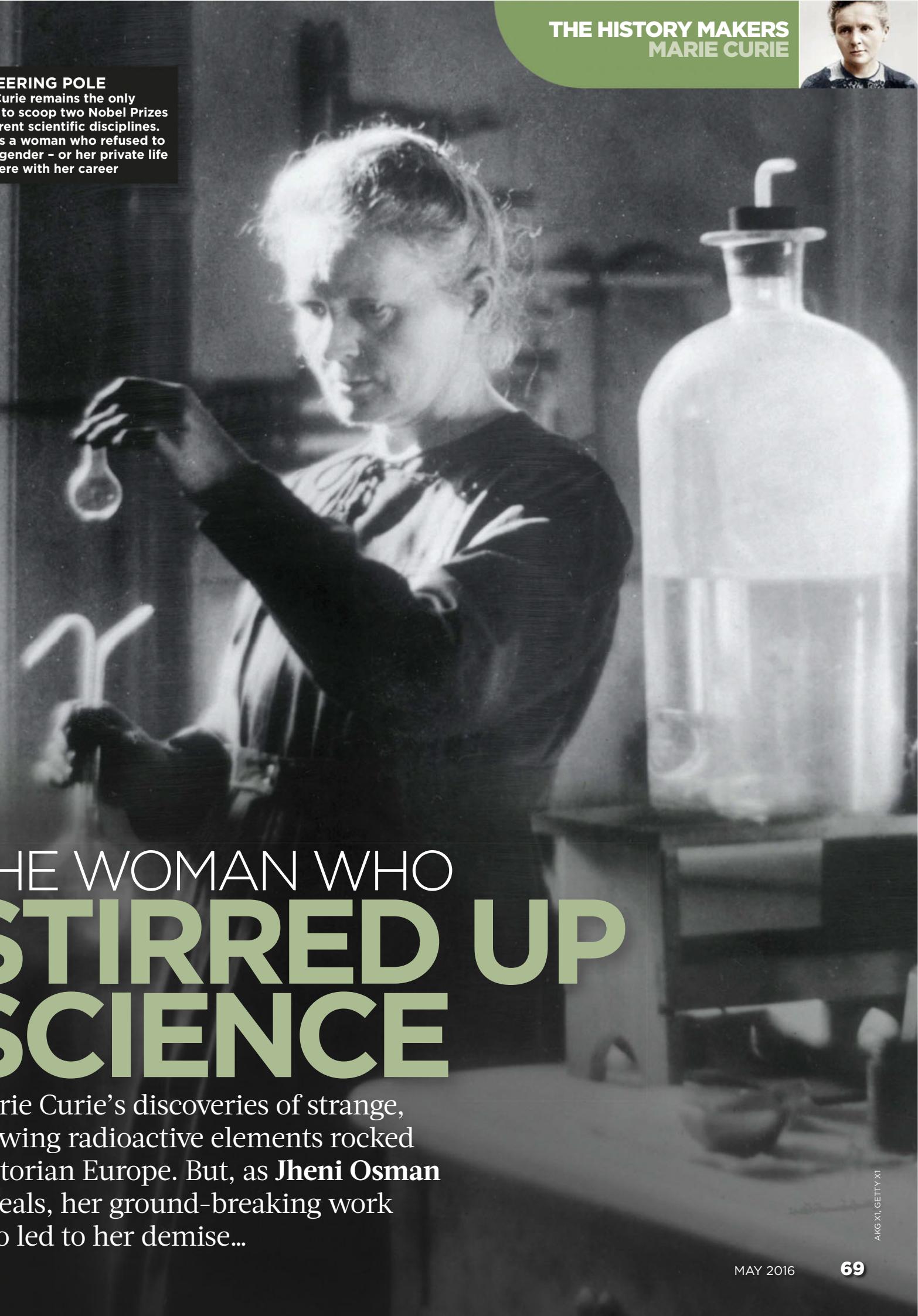


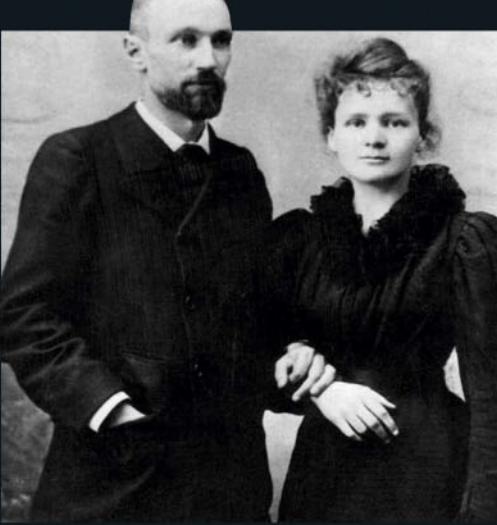
PIONEERING POLE

Marie Curie remains the only person to scoop two Nobel Prizes in different scientific disciplines. She was a woman who refused to let her gender – or her private life – interfere with her career

THE WOMAN WHO **STIRRED UP** **SCIENCE**

Marie Curie's discoveries of strange, glowing radioactive elements rocked Victorian Europe. But, as **Jheni Osman** reveals, her ground-breaking work also led to her demise...





1894 THE MEETING OF MINDS

Marie falls for French physicist Pierre Curie and the couple marry a year later. In 1897, Marie gives birth to Irène. Her sister Eve follows in 1904.

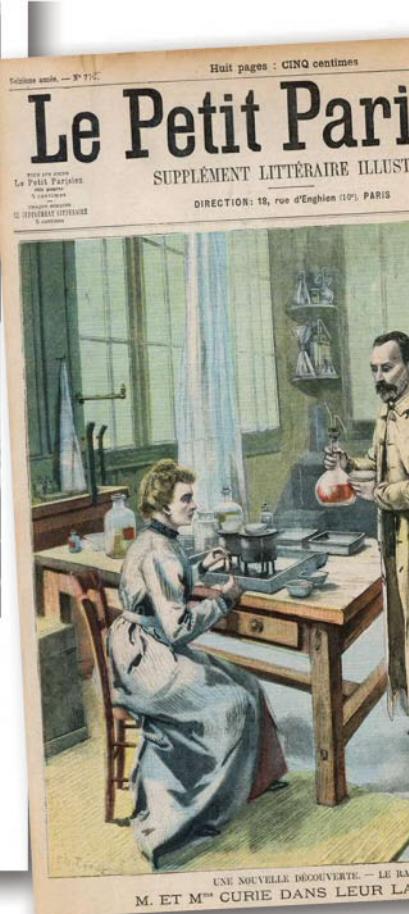
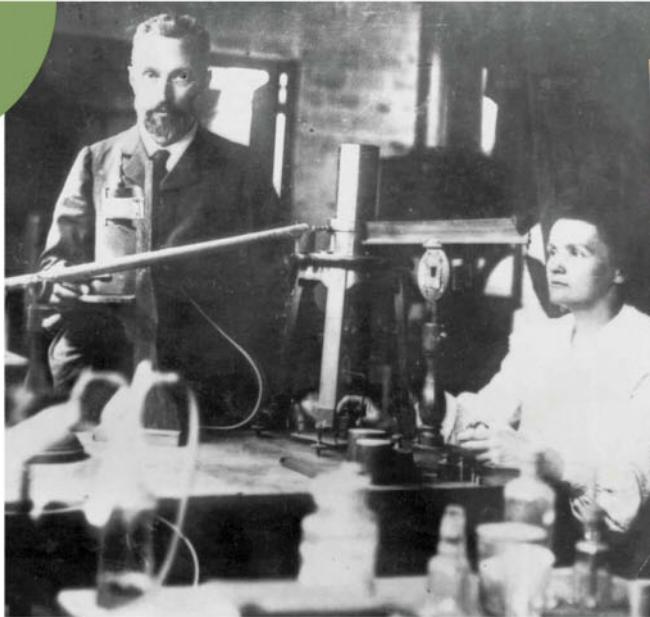
The rhythmic clamour of clapping palms filled the auditorium. Shaking hands and reaching out to receive her award, the winner compared it to the last time she'd been awarded the prize - that time she'd been standing alongside her husband. This was another momentous occasion. Another record-breaker, shaking up the chauvinistic world of science.

Only one person in history has received two Nobel Prizes in two different scientific fields. That person is Marie Curie. Outwardly shy and retiring, this obsessive genius was not only the first woman to be awarded a Nobel Prize, but the only woman to win twice. But she was to pay a heavy price for her ground-breaking work.

Born Maria Skłodowska on 7 November 1867 in Warsaw, in what was then the Land of the Vistula, part of the Russian Empire, she grew up in an intellectual but impoverished family. Her father was a physics teacher, staunch atheist and patriot, intent on an independent Poland. His views clashed with those of the authorities and meant he struggled to hold down a job. Maria spent her early years growing up in the boarding school that her devout Catholic mother ran.

ERNEST RUTHERFORD, KNOWN AS THE 'FATHER OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS'

"I have to keep going, as there are always people on my track. I have to publish my present work as rapidly as possible in order to keep in the race. The best sprinters in this road of investigation are Becquerel and the Curies..."



JUNE 1898 PERIODIC TABLE ADDITIONS

The Curies discover a new chemical element, which Marie names polonium after her native Poland. Just six months later, the couple reveal another element - radium.

But when her mother died of tuberculosis, 11-year-old Maria sought refuge by helping out her father in his laboratory. The quiet, rational world of pipettes and problem-solving was a far cry from the political turmoil outside. But when Maria turned 18, financial reality dragged her away from this safe haven. She struck a deal with her sister, Bronya. While Maria worked as a governess to the daughters of a Russian nobleman, she'd save her hard-earned cash to support Bronya while her sister studied medicine

her name to Marie. It was supposed to be a temporary move; her plan was to gain her teacher's diploma and then return to Poland once the eagle-eyed government had relaxed a bit. But Parisian labs and loves changed the course of her life forever.

SCIENCE VERSUS SEX

At first, Parisian life was a real challenge for a penniless student who was struggling to converse in French and renting a tiny, freezing

"There are sadistic scientists who hurry to hunt down errors instead of establishing the truth"

Marie Curie

in Paris. In return, once she'd become a doctor, Bronya would fund Maria coming to Paris to study.

But after just two years, her left-wing politics had garnered the attention of Big Brother. So, aged 24, Maria moved to Paris and changed

attic room where she'd pile all her clothing on her bed to keep warm at night. Finding work was also testing for a young girl in the male-dominated world of science.

Marie repeatedly tried to find a job in a lab, but kept being met with rejection. Eventually she was given the chance to carry out some trivial tasks. But her technical proficiency immediately attracted attention, gaining the respect of her colleagues. It was while working in these labs that she met a certain scientist named Pierre Curie.

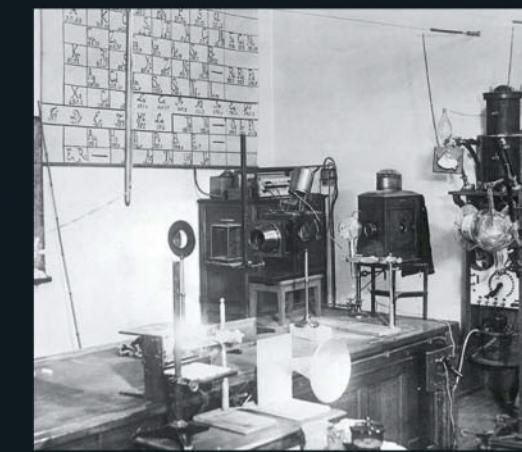
Both passionate about science, both leftist and secular, love soon blossomed. Pierre was already a big name in the scientific world; early on in his career, he had discovered so-called 'piezoelectricity' with his brother Jacques, and





DECEMBER 1903 NOBEL PRIZE HAUL

Marie and Pierre Curie are awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics, alongside Antoine Henri Becquerel, making Marie the first woman to ever receive a Nobel Prize. In 1911, Marie receives the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for her discovery of the new elements polonium and radium. To this day, she is the only person to win two Nobel Prizes in different scientific disciplines. In 1935, Marie's daughter Irène and son-in-law Frédéric Joliot take the family tally of Nobel Prizes up to five when they are awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.



1909 THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

Marie helps found the Institut du Radium, which includes two sections: the Curie laboratory dedicated to physics and chemistry research, and the Pasteur laboratory for studying the biological and medical effects of radioactivity. In 1920, Marie and Claudius Regaud launch the Curie Foundation to help raise funds for additional resources. Later, a hospital opens where post-surgery cancer patients undergo radiation therapy.

he was currently the head of a laboratory at the School of Industrial Physics and Chemistry where talented engineers were trained.

In Pierre, Marie found a fellow intellect and confidant, someone with whom she could enjoy both musing over scientific theories and sharing excursions on their bicycles. But Marie rejected Pierre's first marriage proposal - her aim had always been to return to her native Poland. Love-struck Pierre volunteered to pack in his whole career and move to Poland with her. On a trip to see her family in 1894, however, she applied for a place at Kraków University, but wasn't accepted as she was a woman. So the pair ended up marrying in 1895 in the suburbs of Paris, with untraditional Marie wearing a dark blue outfit instead of a bridal dress, which reportedly became one of her lab outfits. They welcomed their first daughter Irène two years later, followed by Eve in 1904.

Marie didn't let motherhood get in the way of her work, though. Her supervisor Antoine Henri Becquerel had tasked her with investigating a bizarre phenomenon that he'd discovered. Intrigued by the recent discovery of X-rays and the way that certain materials glowed when exposed to bright light, in 1896 Becquerel had found that uranium salts could affect photographic plates through black paper even when the Sun wasn't shining.

Aided by a device that Pierre had invented, Marie set about solving the puzzle of these strange rays. Over the course of just a few days, she discovered that the element thorium gives off the same rays as uranium, and concluded that it wasn't the arrangement of atoms in a molecule that made it radiate, but the interior of the atom itself. This discovery was nothing short of revolutionary.

Chemists the world over grew to admire Marie's tenacity and the classical chemistry she practised. She would lock herself away in the "miserable old shed" as she called it, undertaking the back-breaking work of stirring enormous vats filled with pitchblende, dissolving it in acid to separate the different elements present.

The gruelling hours paid off. In June 1898, Marie and Pierre extracted a black powder 330 times more radioactive than uranium, calling their discovery polonium. Marie was unashamedly open about the fact that her native Poland inspired the name. At the time, this was quite a courageous political statement - a bit like today calling a new discovery 'ukrainium'. Six months later, the Curies announced they'd found another new chemical element, radium.

SHARE OF THE SPOILS

In 1903, Becquerel and the Curies shared the Nobel Prize in physics for their discovery of so-called 'radioactivity'. This was groundbreaking. No woman had ever won a Nobel Prize before. And, indeed, the award wasn't without controversy. The committee had voted for Becquerel to receive half the prize, and Pierre the other half. But one committee member queried why Marie shouldn't get some recognition. So Pierre and Marie ended up both receiving a quarter of the prize.

The Curies were the perfect match. While Pierre was a bit of a dreamer, Marie was a great networker, good at promoting their work. Despite this, Pierre was always the one who received greater recognition, such

1911: WHEN EINSTEIN WROTE TO MARIE...

A LETTER OF DEVOTION

Highly esteemed Mrs Curie,

Do not laugh at me for writing you... But I am so enraged by the base manner in which the public is presently daring to concern itself with you that I absolutely must give vent to this feeling. However, I am convinced that you consistently despise this rabble, whether it obsequiously lavishes respect on you or whether it attempts to satiate its lust for sensationalism! I am impelled to tell you how much I have come to admire your intellect, your drive, and your honesty, and that I consider myself lucky to have made your personal acquaintance in Brussels. Anyone who does not number among these reptiles is certainly happy, now as before, that we have such personages among us as you, and Langevin too, real people with whom one feels privileged to be in contact. If the rabble continues to occupy itself with you, then simply don't read that hogwash, but rather leave it the reptile for whom it has been fabricated.

With most amicable regards to you, Langevin, and Perrin, yours truly,

A Einstein

GREAT ADMIRER
Einstein to Marie Curie: "I am impelled to tell you how much I have come to admire your intellect, your drive, and your honesty"





OCTOBER 1914 ON THE FRONTLINE

Mobile X-ray units, developed by Marie, see their first action near the frontline in World War I. The machines diagnose injuries by X-raying wounded soldiers for bullets, shrapnel and fractures.



OCTOBER 1929 SHOW ME THE MONEY

Marie establishes a radioactivity laboratory in her hometown of Warsaw, to which US President Herbert Hoover contributes \$50,000 in 1929 for the purchase of radium to use in the lab.



4 JULY 1934 UNTIMELY DEATH

Marie dies from aplastic anaemia, a condition where the bone marrow doesn't produce enough new blood cells, almost inevitably caused by radiation exposure. Even today, her notebooks are still so laced with radioactivity that they have to be stored in lead-lined boxes.

as when *Vanity Fair* ran an article on 'Men of the Year', which featured an image of Pierre triumphantly holding up a piece of radium chloride, while Marie stood demurely behind. But just when the Curies seemed to be flying high, Pierre had a tragic accident. In April 1906, he tripped under a horse and cart and died instantly from a skull fracture. Initially, Marie showed no external sign of grief and reportedly just kept repeating: "Pierre is dead". But behind the steely demeanour, she was devastated. Over time she grew introverted and lost herself in her work.

She moved the family to the outskirts of Paris, where Pierre's father played a big role in

a married man with four children. When his wife (from whom he had separated) discovered the passionate affair, rumour has it that she leaked the details to a tabloid newspaper. Despite Langevin's reputed wish to fight a duel against the journalist who broke the story, Marie was so vilified by the press that she decided to end the affair. However, the 'home-wrecker' label affected her professional life too, almost causing her to miss out on her second Nobel Prize. The Swedish Academy of Sciences had tried to dissuade her from coming to Stockholm to receive the award - this time for chemistry.

"I believe there is no connection between my scientific work and the facts of private life"

Marie Curie defends herself against "libel and slander"

helping to bring up his granddaughters. From conferences in far-flung locations around the world, Marie wrote heart-wrenching letters to her daughters saying she wished she could see them more. Torn between family and science, Marie continued to throw herself into her work. Following Pierre's death, she took his place as Professor of General Physics in the Faculty of Sciences, the first woman to have held this position. But in her personal life, Marie was lonely.

In 1910, 43-year-old Marie sought comfort in the arms of another - scientist Paul Langevin,

In response Marie said: "The prize has been awarded for the discovery of radium and polonium. I believe that there is no connection between my scientific work and the facts of private life. I cannot accept ... that the appreciation of the value of scientific work should be influenced by libel and slander concerning private life."

A DEADLY DOSE

Marie's reputation remained tarnished until her heroic efforts to help wounded French soldiers during World War I (see 'Marie Curie's

legacy', opposite). Sadly, Marie's hard work got the better of her in the end. Today, exposure to high doses of radioactive material is avoided at all costs, but the long hours she spent in her lab eventually led to her demise. Marie died in 1934 from aplastic anaemia, a condition where the bone marrow doesn't produce enough new blood cells. Her death was almost certainly the result of overexposure to radiation.

When first discovered, radium was like nothing ever seen before - glowing in the dark and warm to touch. In the 1920s and '30s, quack medicines were all the rave, from radioactive toothpaste to ointments, and radium was used in everything from watches to nightlights. But this 'magical' element had an ominous side, too. In 1901, Becquerel reported how his vest pocket had been burnt when he carried an active sample of radium in it. Lab assistants suffered from aching limbs and sores on their fingers where they had handled radioactive material.

Marie must have known she was dicing with death. So why did she continue to work with radioactive substances? Most likely because she was in denial, as she was so obsessed with her work. Considering the extent of her exposure to radioactivity during her lifetime, she was pretty lucky to make it to the age of 66.

Hers was a life full of scientific endeavour, some scandal and sad moments, but also huge success. Few would argue against her place in the annals of science. ☀



KEEP IT IN THE FAMILY
Marie and her eldest daughter Irène worked together screening soldiers for injuries in World War I. Irène and her husband won a Nobel Prize themselves, the year after Marie's death in 1934.

ETERNAL SAINTHOOD

MARIE CURIE'S LEGACY

For a poor Polish migrant in the male-dominated world of science, Marie was incredibly successful. She left an impressive legacy - the unit of radioactivity (the curie), the element curium and a global charity are all named after her. Nobel Prizes aside, perhaps it was her ability to juggle a stellar career with family life that was her greatest achievement.

Marie had two daughters, Irène and Eve. Eve became a journalist and writer, while her older sister followed in her mother's footsteps. Just like Marie, Irène was bright yet obsessive, shunning vanity and at

times socially awkward. With her husband Frédéric Joliot, Irène worked on the nucleus of the atom and together they were awarded a much-coveted Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1935 for their work on the discovery of artificial radiation. But Irène also ended up dying from a radiation-related illness - leukaemia - in 1956. She was exposed to radiation in her teens while helping Marie with mobile X-ray units that were used in World War I. It was these X-ray units, and her heroic efforts during the war, that turned Marie from sinner to saint. After her love affair in

1910 with a married man was splashed all over the papers, her reputation was in tatters. But, by developing the small, mobile X-ray units that could be used to diagnose injuries near the frontline, Marie diverted attention away from her love life and back to her work. Not satisfied with simply creating the device, she then toured around Paris, fundraising in her role as Director of the Red Cross Radiological Service. By October 1914, the units were ready for use on the frontline where Marie and Irène worked tirelessly, X-raying the wounded for bullets and breaks.

Reaching for the skies

Jonny Wilkes unveils the winners and runners up in ten categories that cover the history of human flight, from take-off to landing on other worlds...

TOP CHOPPER THE 'AERIAL SCREW'

Leonardo da Vinci, the Italian polymath, was centuries ahead of his time when it came to human flight. Over 400 years before the first helicopter took off, he sketched his idea for a wood-and-canvas screw-like flyer with blades 2 metres wide. It was never built (like his other flying machines – such as hang gliders, parachutes and a wing-flapping 'ornithopter') but the 'aerial screw' helped set human imagination skywards.

RUNNERS UP

FOCKE-WULF FW 61

Considered the first functional helicopter, flown in 1936.

THE 'HUEY'

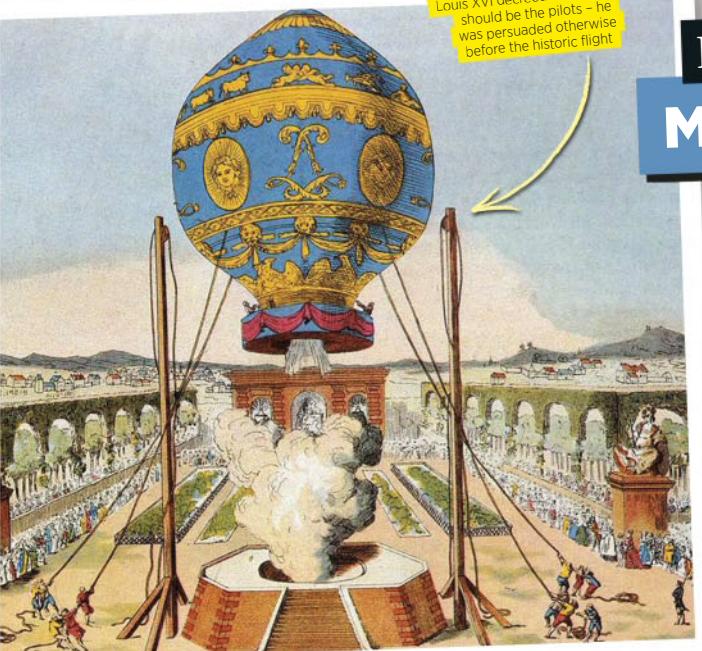
The Bell UH-1 Iroquois was vital to the US Army during the Vietnam War.

► BOEING CH-47 CHINOOK

The tandem-rotored military behemoth



Other than miniature models like this, the 15th-century helicopter never got beyond da Vinci's notebook



BALLOON BURSTS MONTGOLFIER

After experimenting with a sheep, duck and rooster, the Montgolfier brothers felt confident enough to launch human flight using their hot-air balloon in October 1783. Crowds gathered in Paris to watch as Joseph-Michel and Jacques-Étienne let their ornate, 1,700-cubic-metre balloon float up. This initial flight was tethered, limiting the height to 24 metres, but this was bettered the following month when the Montgolfiers made a free ascent over the capital. As paper merchants, the brothers were inspired to try their hands at aviation when realising heated air made paper bags rise. Unsurprisingly, their balloon was lined with the stuff.

RUNNERS UP



▲ ZEPPELIN LZ 1

Taking off in 1900, this rigid airship, named after its designer Count Zeppelin, defined flying machines in the early 20th century.

UNION ARMY BALLOON CORPS

During the American Civil War, balloons filled with coal gas or hydrogen were utilised by the North for reconnaissance purposes.

4

The number of people required to operate da Vinci's aerial screw – but this added to the weight of the contraption

EARLY POWER WRIGHT FLYER

Perhaps history's most famous plane, the Wright Flyer – built by American brothers Wilbur and Orville – was the first to make a powered, heavier-than-air flight. The pilot had to lie on his stomach while bending the wings' material to steer. The Wright Flyer flew only four times in a single day, 17 December 1903, before being damaged in high winds, but the boxy biplane was a success. And the Wright brothers weren't done – they perfected their designs over two more planes.



260

The greatest distance, in metres, flown by the 1903 Wright flyer during flights at Kill Devil Hills in North Carolina

RUNNERS UP

BLÉRIOT XI

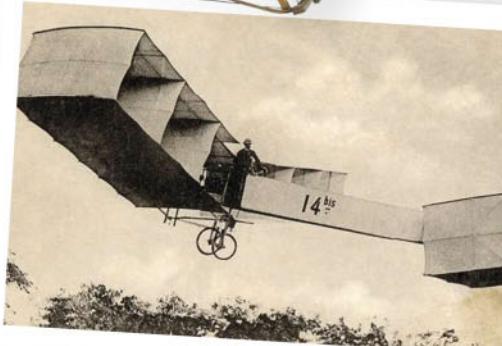
Taking aviation to new places, Frenchman Louis Blériot flew across the English Channel in 1909.

CURTISS MODEL E

More than taking to the skies, the American-built flying boat could land on water.

SANTOS-DUMONT 14-BIS

In 1906, this biplane – built by Brazilian Alberto Santos-Dumont – made a public flight of 60 metres.

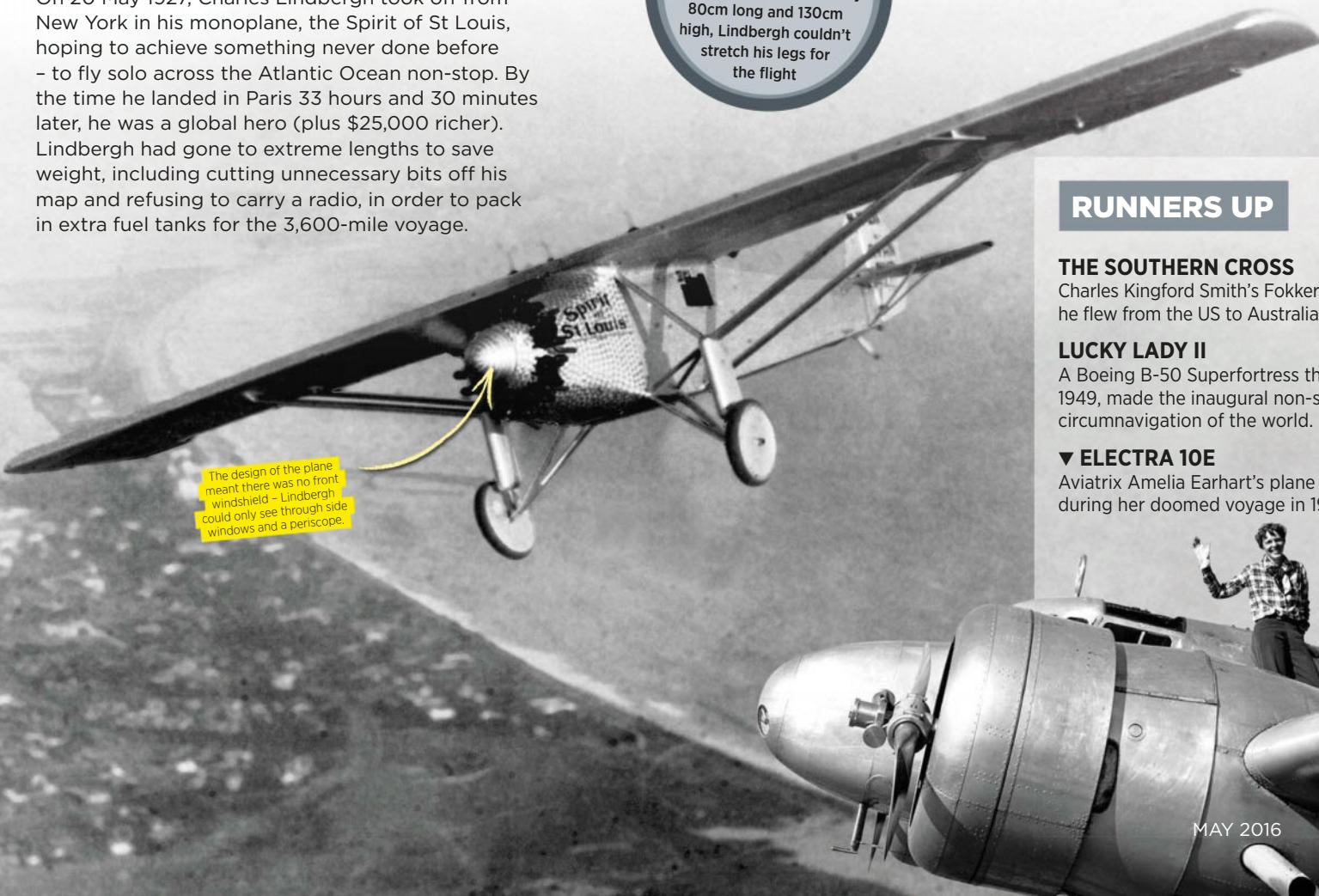


AGE OF ADVENTURE SPIRIT OF ST LOUIS

On 20 May 1927, Charles Lindbergh took off from New York in his monoplane, the Spirit of St Louis, hoping to achieve something never done before – to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean non-stop. By the time he landed in Paris 33 hours and 30 minutes later, he was a global hero (plus \$25,000 richer). Lindbergh had gone to extreme lengths to save weight, including cutting unnecessary bits off his map and refusing to carry a radio, in order to pack in extra fuel tanks for the 3,600-mile voyage.

94

The width, in cm, of the Spirit of St Louis's cockpit. As it was also only 80cm long and 130cm high, Lindbergh couldn't stretch his legs for the flight



RUNNERS UP

THE SOUTHERN CROSS

Charles Kingford Smith's Fokker when he flew from the US to Australia.

LUCKY LADY II

A Boeing B-50 Superfortress that, in 1949, made the inaugural non-stop circumnavigation of the world.

▼ ELECTRA 10E

Aviatrix Amelia Earhart's plane during her doomed voyage in 1937.



FLYING ACES

FOKKER DR.I

Manfred von Richthofen, aka the Red Baron, was Germany's unrivalled scourge of the skies in World War I, unmistakable in his bright-red, three-winged Fokker. Yet, out of the 80 enemy planes that von Richthofen took down, he only shot 19 out of the sky from this iconic triplane. After flying the Fokker for the first time, the German ace liked it so much that he allegedly endorsed it be used by all squadrons.

RUNNERS UP

SOPWITH CAMEL

Taking on the Red Baron was this deadly, if tricky-to-fly, biplane.

MESSERSCHMITT BF 109

A German WWII fighter, in which Erich Hartmann racked up 352 victories.

▼ SPITFIRE

The hero of the Battle of Britain, alongside the Hawker Hurricane.



BIGGER THE BETTER SPRUCE GOOSE

To this day, there has never been a plane with a bigger wingspan than the H-4 Hercules, dubbed the 'Spruce Goose'. At 97 metres, it was about the same length as a football pitch. The baby of eccentric, wealthy entrepreneur Howard Hughes, the wooden, eight-engine flying boat was intended as World War II transport. But it took too long to build (the war was over by the time of its completion) and it cost around \$40 million. It only flew once, in 1947, but no-one had seen the likes of the Spruce Goose before.



RUNNERS UP

MIL V-12

The world's largest helicopter, its rotorspan is 67 metres and it can carry 196 passengers.

AN-225 MRIYA

When it was built in 1988, the 640-tonne monster was twice as big as any other airliner.

► AIRBUS A380

The largest passenger plane ever, it can hold over 500 people and 3,000 suitcases.

Known as a 'bullet with wings', the X-1 was modelled on a .50 calibre machine-gun bullet.

NEED FOR SPEED BELL X-1

When a thundering boom rang out over the Mojave Desert of California on 14 October 1947, it announced the fact that the rocket-powered Bell X-1 had just broken the sound barrier – the first plane to do so. Piloted by US Air Force Captain Charles 'Chuck' Yeager, the orange X-1 (which he called 'Glamorous Glennis', after his wife) was launched from altitude by a B-29 and accelerated to previously unexperienced speeds. Following the sonic boom, the X-1 continued until it peaked at 700 miles per hour, or Mach 1.06.

RUNNERS UP

FAIREY DELTA 2

The British supersonic craft was the first to exceed 1,000 miles per hour, in 1956.

BLACKBIRD

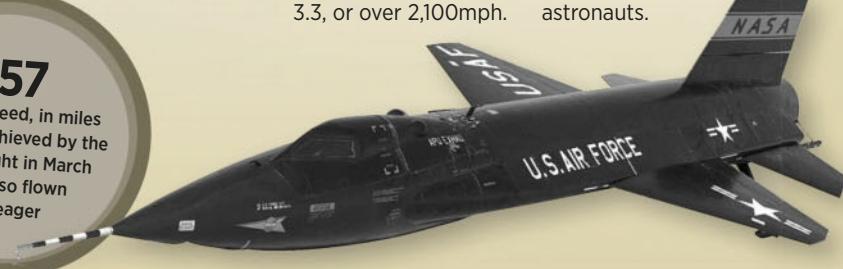
Though it made its first flight back in 1964, the SR-71 is still the fastest plane ever. It's capable of Mach 3.3, or over 2,100mph.

▼ X-15

This hypersonic plane developed in 1959 reached such altitudes that its pilots were technically astronauts.

957

The top speed, in miles per hour, achieved by the X-1 in a flight in March 1948, also flown by Yeager



DISASTERS

Unfortunately, flying machines have made history for other, more tragic, reasons



HINDENBERG, 1937

As it prepared to dock at Lakehurst in New Jersey, the Hindenberg exploded – although there are still questions as to why – sending the greatest airship of the age crashing to the ground in a ball of flames in less than a minute. It seems miraculous that, of 97 on board, there were just 36 fatalities.

AIR FRANCE FLIGHT 4590, 2000

On 25 July 2000, the undisputed speed champion of commercial flight suffered its only crash. The Air France Concorde blew a tyre on the runway, which sparked a fuel tank. All 109 on board, and four on the ground, perished. Concorde's reputation was damaged – it went out of service three years later.

CHALLENGER, 1986

It was the worst disaster in the history of space travel. American space shuttle Challenger had just launched when it blew up over the skies of Florida, killing all seven astronauts on board. In all the spaceflights that went before this, there had been only four in-flight human fatalities. Millions watched the terrible scenes live on television.



MASS DESTRUCTION

ENOLA GAY

Has a flight ever had a larger consequence than that of a B-29 bomber on 6 August 1945? At 8.15am, the Enola Gay released its payload – the first atomic bomb used in warfare, 'Little Boy' – over the Japanese city of Hiroshima. The 15-kiloton blast wiped out 70,000 people (thousands more died in the months to come) and annihilated much of the city. When a second bomb fell on Nagasaki – the Enola Gay flew reconnaissance – Japan had no choice but to surrender.

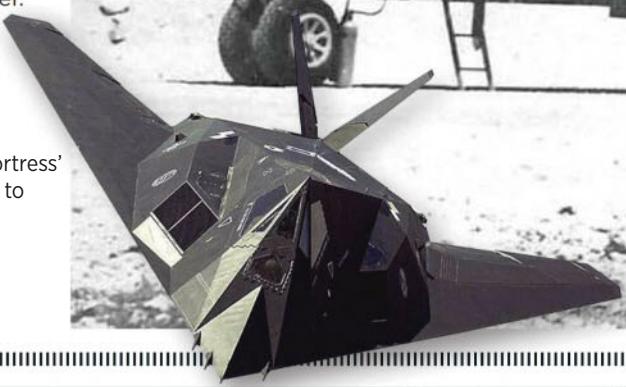
RUNNERS UP

THE B-52

During the Cold War, the 'Stratofortress' fleet flew around the clock, ready to launch against the Soviet Union.

► F-117 NIGHTHAWK

A stealth attack craft – the first operational one of its kind.



SPACE RACE

VOSTOK 1

After World War II, humans set their sights further than the skies. It may have been small and basic, but the Soviet-made Vostok 1 spacecraft had enough to launch a human into space on 12 April 1961. Cramped inside the 2.3-metre capsule, Yuri Gagarin spent 108 minutes completing an orbit. As Vostok 1 wasn't equipped for a safe landing, however, the cosmonaut had to eject around four miles up and parachute down.

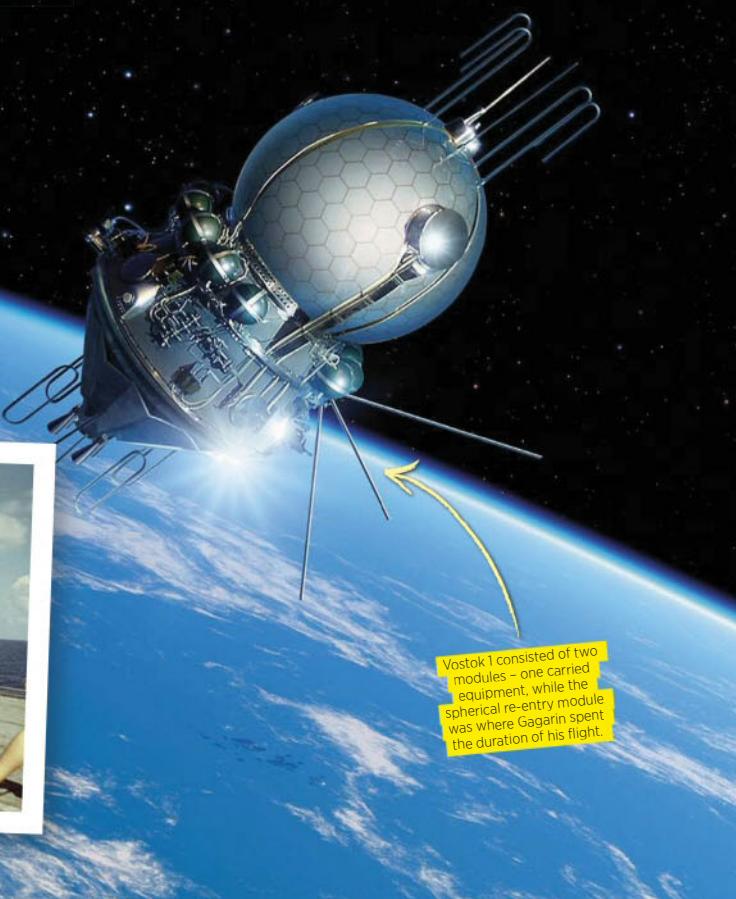
RUNNERS UP

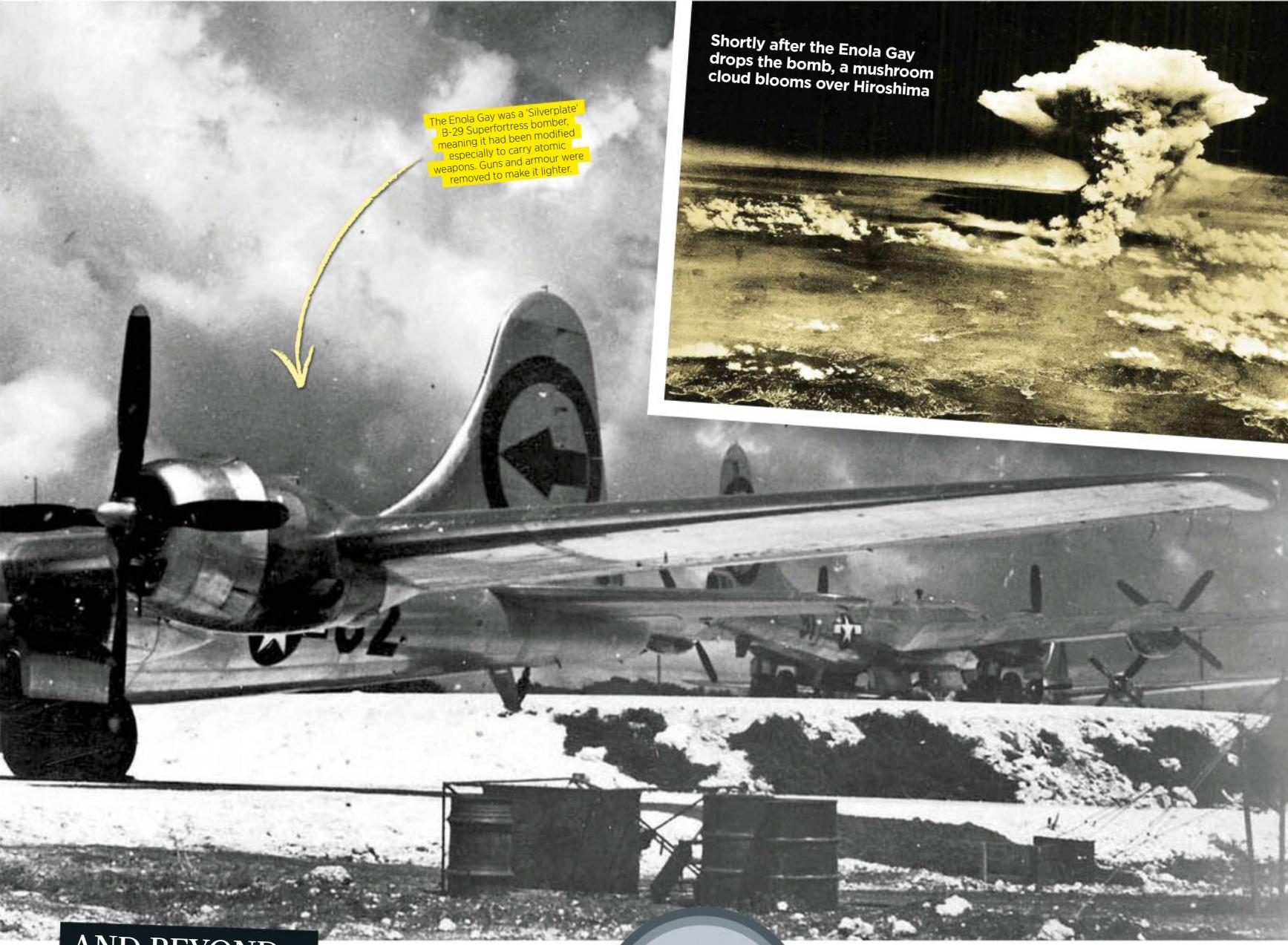
► FREEDOM 7

Gagarin's flight forced the US to pick up its pace in the Space Race. NASA launched astronaut Alan Shepard into orbit on 5 May 1961, in Project Mercury's manned craft.

SOYUZ

Since its launch in 1967, Soyuz have been in use longer than any other manned spacecraft. They still transport astronauts to space stations today.





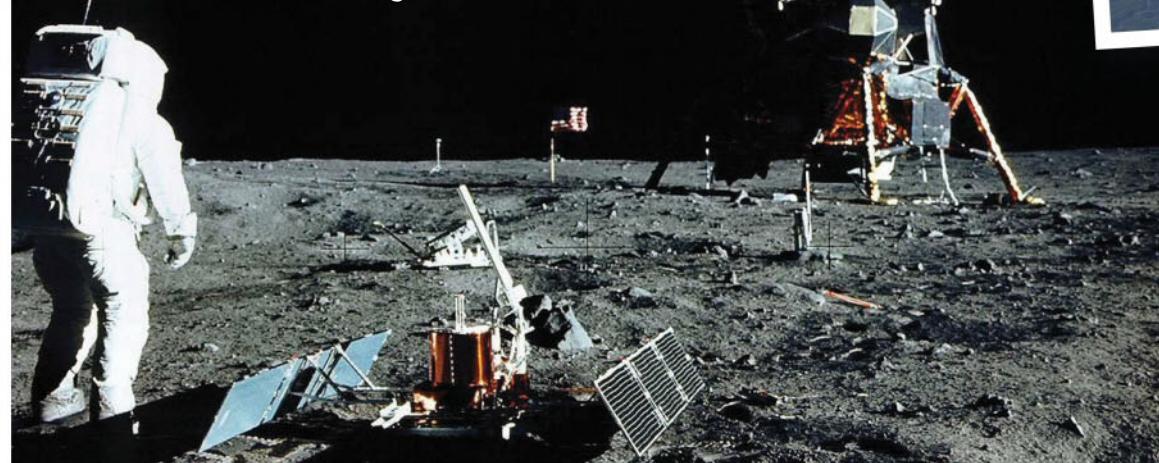
AND BEYOND...

APOLLO 11

When Neil Armstrong set foot on the Moon on 20 July 1969, the American announced it to be a "giant leap for mankind". The success of Apollo 11 in landing astronauts on the Moon – and then lifting them off safely again – was also the next giant leap for human flight. The mission lasted a little over eight days, and required a number of craft to work together, including the Saturn V rocket and the Landing Module.

66

The number of years between the inaugural powered flight by the Wright Brothers, in 1903, and the Moon landing



RUNNERS UP

▲ INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

The largest space station, launched in 1998, hosts astronauts from all over the world – including the recent arrival of Brit Tim Peake.

SPACE SHUTTLES

More closely resembling a typical plane, these shuttles could land back on Earth and be re-used.



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'Glastonbury Abbey Excavations'

23 August (1-2 pm)
'Armour and the Afterlife: Knightly Effigies in England and Wales'

20 September (1-2 pm)
'A Copy of a Copy: Leek's Replica of the Bayeux Tapestry'

18 October (1-2 pm)
'The Relics of Battle Abbey'

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Q&A

YOU ASK, WE ANSWER

IN A NUTSHELL p83 • **HOW DID THEY DO THAT?** p84
• **WHY DO WE SAY...** p86 • **WHAT IS IT?** p87

OUR EXPERTS

EMILY BRAND

Social historian, genealogist and author of *Mr Darcy's Guide to Courtship* (2013)



GREG JENNER

Consultant for BBC's *Horrible Histories* series and author of *A Million Years in a Day* (2015)



SANDRA LAWRENCE

Writer and columnist, with a specialist interest in British heritage subjects



MILES RUSSELL

Author and senior lecturer in prehistoric and Roman archaeology at Bournemouth University



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BURST BUBBLE

The Fleer company had sole control of the bubble gum market until Bazooka was launched after World War II



DID YOU KNOW?

ULTIMATE UPGRADE

In Ancient Rome, the Senate had the power to turn distinguished people into gods. The process, known as 'apotheosis', could be posthumously applied to popular emperors, empresses and other members of the Imperial family.

WHY IS BUBBLE GUM PINK?



The practice of chewing gum goes back millennia – to at least the Ancient Greeks, who chewed resin from the mastic tree.

But the reason bubble gum is pink is a lot more recent. During the 1920s, Walter E Diemer, an accountant at the Fleer Chewing Gum Company in Philadelphia, spent his spare time inventing new recipes. All of them had to be pink as that was the only food colouring the company had. He claimed his

discovery of a formula both pliable enough to blow bubbles and smooth enough not to stick to your teeth was an accident.

Fleer sent a batch of Diemer's invention to a local sweetshop in 1928, where it sold out in a single day. Delighted, Diemer personally taught salespeople the correct way to blow 'Dubble Bubble' so they could teach clients – and pass on the information to the children of the United States. SL

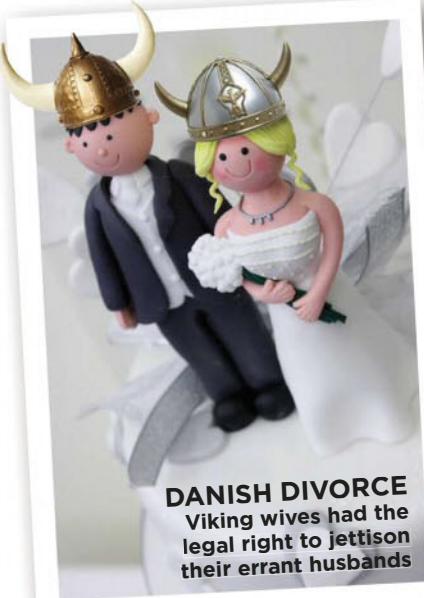


WHAT WAS A VIKING WEDDING LIKE?

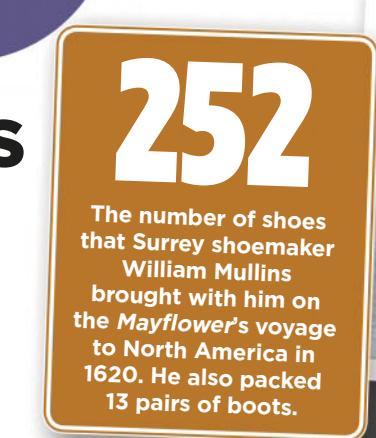


Most sources for pagan Viking customs come from the later, Christianised 13th century, which makes their reliability questionable. Generally, it's believed a wedding involved three days of feasting, boozing, animal sacrifices and boisterous sport. The ceremony itself may have been held on a Friday, in honour of the goddess Frigga, and during the summer when travel was easier.

The bride probably didn't wear a special wedding dress, but might have sported a headdress. The groom may have presented his bride with an ancestral sword and, in return, she may have given him a new one. It's plausible rings were exchanged too.



DANISH DIVORCE
Viking wives had the legal right to jettison their errant husbands



The number of shoes that Surrey shoemaker William Mullins brought with him on the *Mayflower's* voyage to North America in 1620. He also packed 13 pairs of boots.



BEST FOOT FORWARD

Made from leather and wood, this toe was found on an Egyptian mummy

How long have people used prosthetic limbs?



A 3,000-year-old, wood-and-leather toe found on an Egyptian mummy – and the discovery in Italy of an artificial leg dating back to 300 BC – show that manufacturing prosthetic limbs was already possible in the ancient world. In the fifth century BC, Greek historian Herodotus wrote of a Persian soldier who had replaced his lost foot with a wooden version, while 500

years later, Pliny the Elder gives the earliest record of a prosthetic hand in his account of Roman general Marcus Sergius, who replaced a lost hand with one made of iron in order to grasp his shield. These early prosthetics were of obvious value to those injured in battle. Centuries of war saw technological advancements into the early modern era, including improved devices for adjustment and articulation of joints, and the use of lighter materials such as leather. EB

DID YOU KNOW? PAPAL POETRY

Before becoming Pope in 1458, Pius II wrote erotic poetry and a risqué novel called *The Tale of Two Lovers*. Despite his best efforts to suppress the work after he took office, by 1500 it had run into 35 editions.

WHAT HAPPENED TO KING HAROLD'S BODY AFTER THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS?

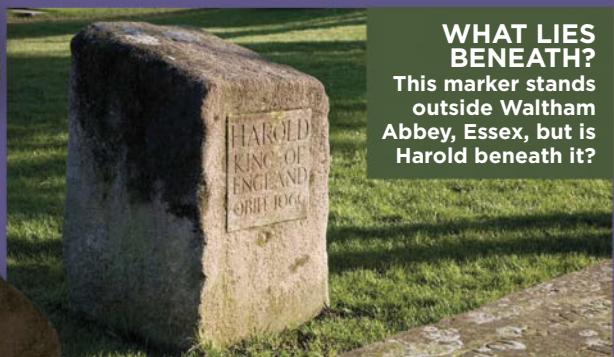


Romantic tales of his widow, Edith Swannesh (Swan-Neck), combing the battlefield for the fallen king remain legends. His body was so mutilated, he could only be identified by secret marks on his skin. The people of Bosham in West Sussex, Harold's birthplace, still verbally battle with the residents of Waltham Abbey in Essex, which he re-founded in 1060, for his final resting place. SL

“WHAT FRESH HELL IS THIS?”

DOROTHY PARKER (1893-1967)

One of the most famous quotes from the quick-quipping American writer and humorist, Parker would utter these words – or a variation on them, such as “What fresh hell can this be?” – whenever interrupted by a knocking door or a ringing telephone. The quote was later revived in the sitcom *Frasier* by the solitude-seeking title character.



WHAT LIES BENEATH?

This marker stands outside Waltham Abbey, Essex, but is Harold beneath it?

IN A NUTSHELL

THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

It was one of the most resilient empires in world history, but how did it start? And why did it end?



Was the Ottoman Empire really history's longest-lasting empire?

That's a debate that is hard to fit into a nutshell. But, the ever-changing world power – an Islamic network of countries comprising much of the Mediterranean coast (besides Italy) – began in 1299 and did not conclude until 1922. This means that it certainly outstripped the British Empire in terms of longevity, if not reach.

Depending on the start and end dates, though, the Roman Empire could be said to have lasted longer, beginning in the first century BC until the fifth century AD.

How did the Ottoman Empire get started?

The name comes from an anglicisation of 'Osman', after Osman I, the founder of the dynasty, who would go on to rule the Empire. The area known as Anatolia, or Asia Minor, the westernmost fringe of Asia, was split into numerous Turkish states following the end of the medieval

Sultanate of Rum. At the same time, the Byzantine Empire (the name given to the Eastern arm of the Roman Empire) was failing. Osman and his followers were there to pick up the spoils.

At first, the Ottoman powerbase was only one of many in the region. Osman's son Orhan, however, was much more interested in conquest, so extended his land to the Balkans. He went on to block trade routes and reduce Byzantine control in the north west, all of which allowed for further expansion. Ultimately, the greatest treasure to be captured in the whole hemisphere was the city of Constantinople, the seat of the Byzantine Empire for 1,000 years.

Was it a straightforward march to greatness?

Between the Byzantines fighting back, Mongol interventions, internal strife and regular Crusades from the west, it

was not. Sultan Bayezid, Osman's great-grandson, was imprisoned by the Turco-Mongol leader Timur, triggering years of civil war that only ended when his son, Mehmed I, emerged as the victor. It was, in turn, his grandson Mehmed the Conqueror who earned his name as the man who took Constantinople. Around this time, the city became known as 'Istanbul', which to the Greeks meant 'in the city', but was claimed by the conquerors to mean 'full of Islam'.

Mehmed's forces had taken control of all areas surrounding the city, including the strategic hotspot of the Bosphorus Straits, and all it took to complete the campaign was a 57-day siege, starting in April 1453. When the Sultan set foot in his new capital, he proclaimed: "The spider weaves the curtains in the palace of the Caesars."

He even claimed the title of Caesar.

Was it a harsh regime, under Shariah Law?

There's actually very little to suggest that the Ottomans were any more brutal in their ruling than any other European power of the time. The Christian Orthodox



ON PUBLIC DISPLAY

A sultan rides through Istanbul – at its height, the Empire ruled over more than 15 million subjects

Church was maintained, and the succeeding sultans were just as likely to ally themselves with the rulers of France, for example, as any other empire-building nation if it were mutually beneficial. By the middle of the 16th century, in the reign of Suleiman the Magnificent, the Ottoman Empire boasted a population of more than 15 million people across three continents, as well as being one of the strongest military and naval forces on the planet.

So what went wrong?

Managing to maintain the Empire over four centuries could hardly be called 'going wrong'. Yet it's true that by the 19th century, the dwindling Empire was known as "the sick man of Europe" – a term coined by Tsar Nicholas II of Russia during the Crimean War.

Russia emerged as one of the key antagonists of the Ottoman Empire, and the Crimean War was in part caused by the Empire's decline, as growing European powers faced off to take over their territories.

Despite the dissolution of the Empire, it was to emerge as the victor of one more major military campaign – Gallipoli, in which the Allied forces failed to take over the Turkish peninsula.

However, Turkish forces became so strained that their signing of the Armistice of Mudros in 1918 effectively handed Istanbul over to the English and French, who began carving up what remained of the Ottoman Empire – ushering in a whole new era of tribalism and strife.



TILE ICON

LEFT: The majesty of Istanbul's 'Blue Mosque' ABOVE: Osman I, the first Ottoman emperor



HOW DID THEY DO THAT? THE CUTTY SARK

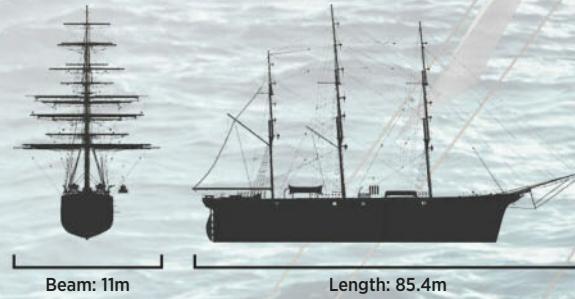
The super-fast tea clipper was once the speediest ship on the high seas

Target Built in the shipbuilding heartland of the Clyde in 1869, at a cost of £16,150, the *Cutty Sark* was one of the last wind-powered tea clippers. It operated under the British flag, in dedicated service to the tea and wool trades, until being sold to a Portuguese cargo company in 1895, whereupon it was renamed the *Ferreira*.

These extremely fast clippers were able to cover long distances without the need of getting to port to reload coal. However, the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 shortened trade routes and made them lose their advantage over steam ships. In 1922, the *Cutty Sark* returned to Britain to become a training ship and is today put on public show in dry dock in Greenwich.

DATA SHEET

Length: 85.4m
Beam: 11m
Capacity: 1,542 tonnes
Speed: Over 17 knots



EROTIC FIGUREHEAD

The ship's name comes from Nannie, the witch in the Robert Burns poem *Tam O'Shanter*, who was dressed in only a "cutty sark" - an old Scottish term for a short nightie. Nannie is the inspiration for the *Cutty Sark*'s bare-breasted figurehead.



UPPER DECK

MIXED CONSTRUCTION

Different from the American wooden clippers, the *Cutty Sark* was a mix of wood and steel.

CUTTING EDGE

Its hull was inspired by that of *The Tweed*, a fast, wave-slicing frigate.

HOME AGAIN
The ship now sits in dry dock in Greenwich, South London



SHIP SHAPE
Visitors can sample life below deck

WILD IS THE WIND

The Cutty Sark could raise up to 29 sails, covering an area of nearly 3,000m².

ACCESS ALL AREAS

Two cargo hatches on the main deck gave easy access to the hold below.

HOLD STEADY

Despite the elegant shape of the ship, its hold boasted a large capacity.

CARGO HOLD

TEA ON TIME

The ship competed in an annual race against other clippers to be the first to bring the freshest China tea to London.

TO HULL AND BACK

The 2012 renovation allows visitors to inspect even underneath the Cutty Sark

STERN

The Cutty Sark's squared, wide design provided more buoyancy to the rear part of the ship.

REPLACEMENT RUDDER

In 1872, after losing the ship's giant rudder in a storm en route back from China, her captain decided to continue using a hastily improvised replacement, such was the importance of returning to London before rival vessels in order to win the 'tea race'.



LATER LIFE

In 1895, the ship was bought by the Ferreira company and, until 1922, it connected Portugal with Brazil and New Orleans. In 1922, retired captain Wilfred Dowman bought the clipper for his personal use before, in 1938, his widow donated it to the training academy at Greenhithe to be used as a school ship by young cadets.

WHY DO WE SAY...

WRONG END OF THE STICK



The phrase – meaning to misunderstand a situation – has its origins in medieval times and refers to the dirty end of a walking stick or staff. A variation of the phrase is found in the writings of the 16th-century playwright and cleric Nicolas Udall, who refers to “the warse ende of the staffe”. Rumours that the phrase is actually derived from the communal stick (with sponge attached at one end) used in Roman public toilets to clean one’s backside have never been validated.

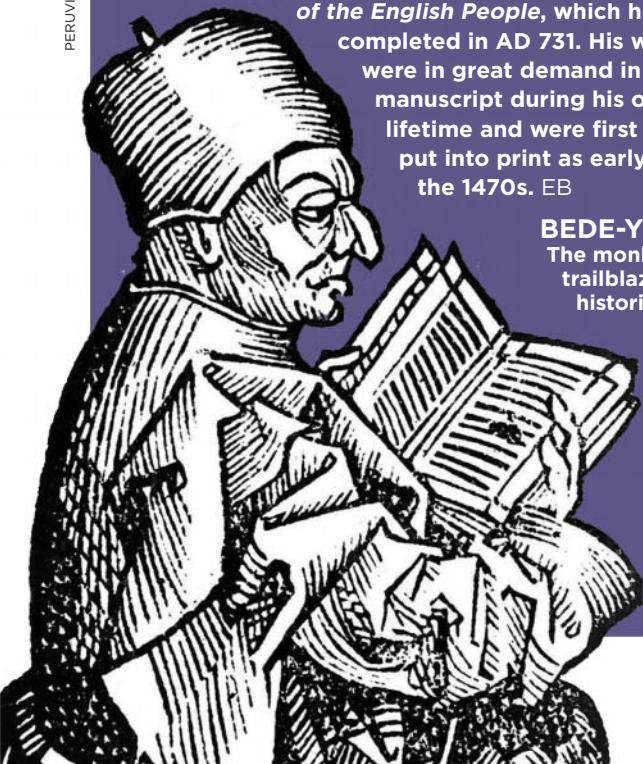
WHO WAS ENGLAND'S EARLIEST HISTORIAN?



Called ‘The Father of English History’, Bede (c673–735 AD) was an

English monk and theologian from County Durham, in the then Kingdom of Northumbria. Learned and prolific, he is best known for charting the progress of English Christianity in his *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, which he completed in AD 731. His works were in great demand in manuscript during his own lifetime and were first put into print as early as the 1470s. EB

BEDE-Y EYE
The monk and trailblazing historian

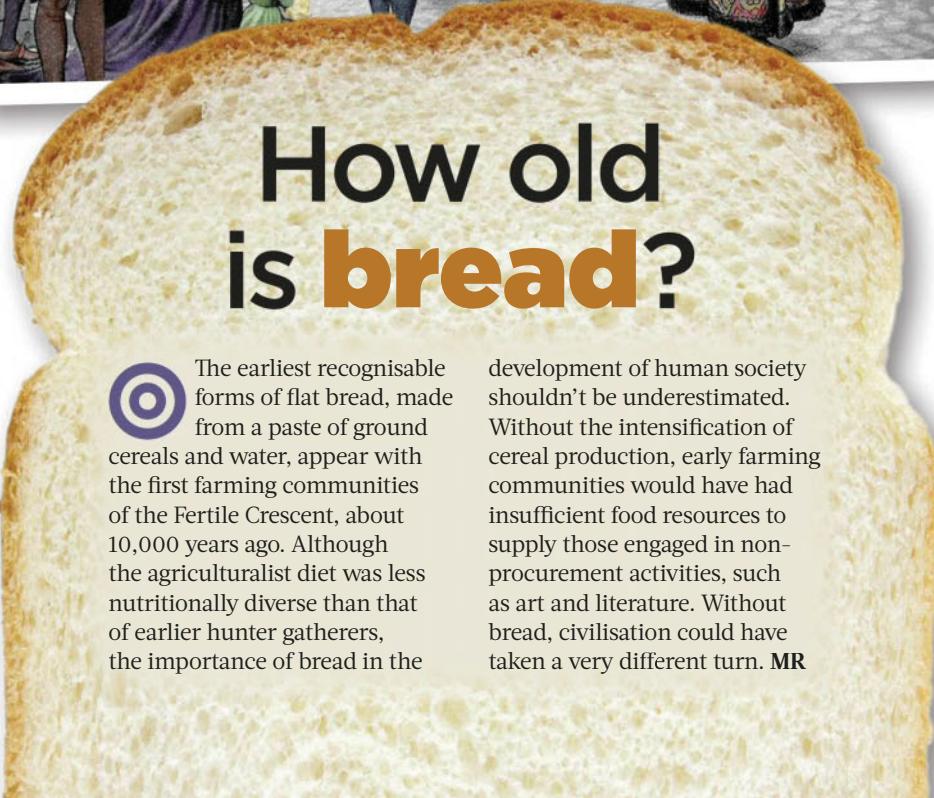
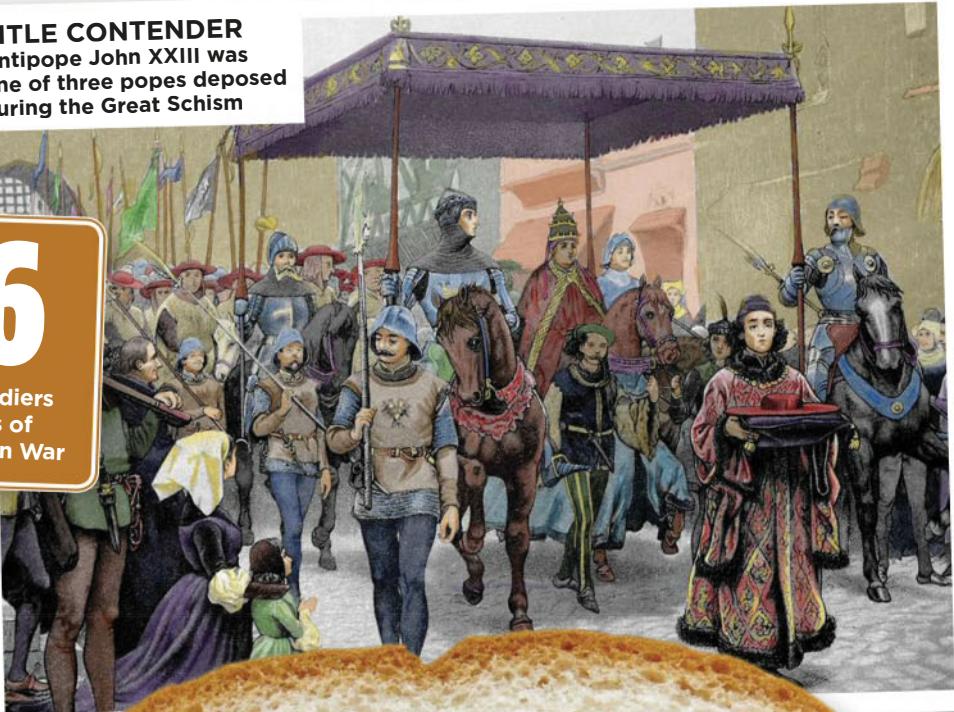


5,546

The number of British soldiers court-martialed for acts of drunkenness in the Crimean War

TITLE CONTENDER

Antipope John XXIII was one of three popes deposed during the Great Schism



Has there ever been more than one pope at once?



Between the third and 15th centuries, there were about 40 ‘Antipopes’ – who claimed legitimacy while other popes held office. These bizarre scenarios could emerge from religious doctrinal squabbles, but politics was usually to blame. In the late 11th century, Henry IV – the Holy Roman Emperor – famously battled with Pope

Gregory VII over the right to appoint his own bishops, retaliating by appointing his own Antipope. Worse still, in 1409, there were three competing popes. This was the low-point of the so-called Western Schism, a 40-year argument resulting from the Papacy moving from Rome to Avignon, and then back again. GJ



**SURPRISE,
SURPRISE!**
We have the
Romans to thank
for all those
unwanted gifts
over the years

DID YOU KNOW?

THE FUTURE IS ORANGE
For the past 300 years, all the citrus
trees at the Potsdam palaces in
Germany have been 'driven out'
of their ornate Baroque orangeries
on one particular day of the
calendar, signalling to the local
populace that winter
has officially ended.

WHEN DID PEOPLE START GIVING BIRTHDAY PRESENTS?

(target) In most ancient cultures, the survival of an individual beyond their first year was quite an achievement. The annual celebration of birthdays, however, was comparatively rare, with many societies choosing instead to commemorate key moments in an individual's life – such as the moment of birth itself, marriage or becoming an adult. In the fifth century BC, Greek historian Herodotus noted the extremely curious (to his eyes, at least) Persian tradition of birthday feasting in

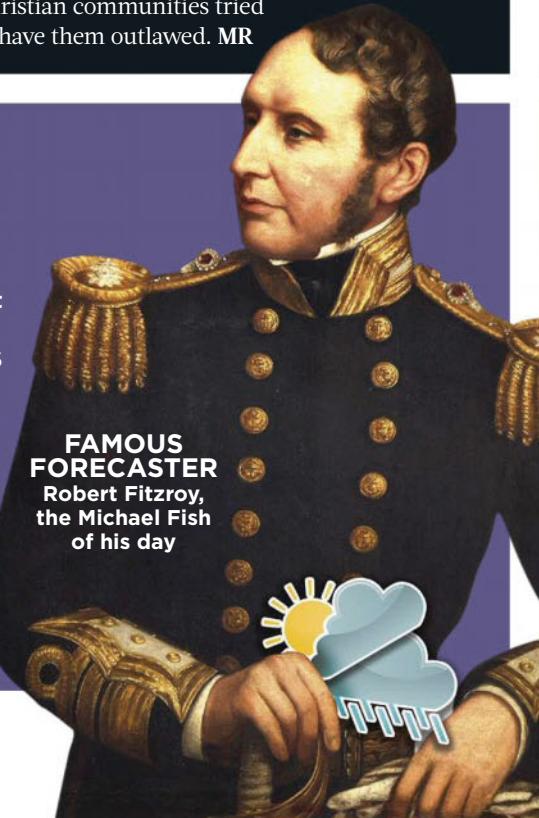
which the wealthy dined on baked camel, cow and donkey. It wasn't until the start of the first century AD that the Roman custom of celebrating the birthday of friends, family and the reigning emperor with gifts – and the rather excessive consumption of wine – became popular and widely practised throughout the Empire. So extravagant and degenerate did these birthday parties become that, in the fourth century, early Christian communities tried to have them outlawed. MR



(target) It wasn't just in Ancient Egypt that distinguished people were mummified – the peoples of Peru also performed the ritual. This rare example was prepared by the Chimú between AD 1000 and 1400. The body was placed in a reed cage and wrapped in material, before a decorative head was added. Recent scans have revealed this mummy to be of an eight-year-old girl, with signs of trepanation on her skull. It is currently held by Bolton Museum. www.boltonlams.co.uk/museum

WHO WAS THE FIRST WEATHER FORECASTER?

(target) For millennia, people had tried to predict the weather using common folk wisdom. It wasn't until the 1860s that Admiral Robert Fitzroy, formerly Charles Darwin's captain on HMS Beagle, reacted to a series of fatal coastal wrecks by publishing 'storm warnings'. Fitzroy had already founded what is now the Met Office and, in 1861, began issuing daily weather 'forecasts' in *The Times*. This earned him great fame, but also mockery when some predictions proved inaccurate. Tragically, the public scrutiny became too intense and he killed himself. To learn more, try Peter Moore's recent book, *The Weather Experiment*. GJ



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Want to enjoy more history? Our monthly guide to activities and resources is a great place to start

HERE & NOW

BRITAIN'S TREASURES p90 • **PAST LIVES** p92 • **BOOKS** p94

ON OUR RADAR

What's caught our attention this month...

EXHIBITION

Jutland 2016

Starts 20 May at the National Maritime Museum, London. Find out more at www.rmg.co.uk

On 31 May 1916, the British Royal Navy's Grand Fleet encountered the German High Seas Fleet in the **greatest naval battle of World War I**. Off the coast of Jutland, Denmark, the engagement involved 279 ships, resulted in the **loss of more than 8,500 men**, but still ended without a decisive victory.

To mark the centenary of the Battle of Jutland, explore the build-up, actions and aftermath with the **National Maritime Museum's major exhibition**.

As it is also 100 years since the Battle of the Somme, the display places the importance of Jutland in the wider context of the war, and what the result meant on both sides.



MAIN: Sir David Beatty, Admiral of the British Fleet at Jutland, on the deck of HMS Queen Elizabeth ABOVE: An Imperial German naval ensign from SMS Moltke FAR LEFT: A brooch of the Royal Naval Friendly Union of Sailors' Wives

NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM/LONDON X3, ANDREW BUTLER/IMAGES X1



GUIDED WALK

Golden Valley

Starts at 1.30pm on 22 May. Meet at Ashridge Estate Visitor Centre, Hertfordshire, HP4 1LT.

To celebrate **300 years since the birth of Capability Brown**, there is no better time to take in the landscape architect's greatest achievements. So put on your boots and bring your camera for a guided walk of Golden Valley, designed by Brown c1760. Tickets cost £8 for adults (or £5 for children), but **booking is essential** by ringing 01442 851227.

The Golden Valley was a beautiful addition to the Ashridge Estate

SHOP

The Viking Game

£25, available at bit.ly/VikingGame

Fancy Viking chess? Hnefatafl (or the King's Table) is a **simple game of strategy, but be careful, it's addictive**. This beautiful set can be bought from the National Museums Scotland shop.





Good as new – much of the Roman stonework has undergone restoration

RE-OPENING Clayton Museum

Part of Chesters Roman Fort, Hadrian's Wall, NE46 4EU; search at www.english-heritage.org.uk

With its £130,000 face-lift, the Clayton Museum is open again, and still **brimming with Roman treasures**. Browse the hundreds of excavated artefacts with new **immersive and interactive displays** or explore the life of the man who found them, the 'Saviour of the Wall' John Clayton.



FAMILY FUN

Terrible Tudors Live

26 May to 2 June at Hampton Court; search at www.hrp.org.uk for more

Horrible Histories is setting up shop at Hampton Court Palace for a week in the company of Britain's most famous dynasty, the Tudors. From the Spanish Armada to the Groom of the Stool, the **packed one-hour shows** promise to be "history with the nasty bits left in!"



Matthew McConaughey as Newton Knight, the Southern deserter who tried to form a state

CINEMA

The Free State of Jones

Scheduled to be released 27 May

Matthew McConaughey is certainly enjoying his 'McConnaissance', and it shows no sign of stopping in this historical action blockbuster. He plays **Newton Knight, a poor Mississippi farmer and soldier of the Confederate army** in the American Civil War. But after barely surviving the Battle of Corinth in 1862, he turns his back on the South and becomes a

leader of fellow downtrodden deserters and runaway slaves in an **armed rebellion**.

Also starring Gugu Mbatha-Raw (off the back of historical hit, *Belle*) and Mahershala Ali, *The Free State of Jones* is based on a true story. The real Knight is the subject of ongoing controversy, but McConaughey's looks to be a **19th-century American Robin Hood**.

FESTIVAL

Museums at Night

11-14 May nationwide. Find a participating venue at museumsatnight.org.uk

Don't miss this chance to experience your **favourite museums, galleries and heritage sites** in a new light. Across Britain, they're throwing open their doors after hours for a host of special events – how about a **sleep over at Portsmouth's Historic Dockyard** or testing Fort Nelson's gun battery in the dark?



You might want to cover your ears when the 13-inch mortar is fired at Fort Nelson on 13 May

► ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

- Rembrandt's 'Self Portrait at the Age of 63' is the centrepiece of Bristol Museum's European Old Masters Gallery from 21 May. More at www.bristolmuseums.org.uk
- On 14-15 May, Chepstow Castle hosts the William Marshal tournament, celebrating the life of the 'Greatest Knight'. Details and prices at cadw.gov.wales/events

FRONT OF HOUSE

The grand entry that Bristol Old Vic has today was not attached to the theatre until 1972 – it was formerly the entrance to a fruit and vegetable warehouse



TOKEN GESTURE

The original 50 investors of Bristol Old Vic were presented with a token, allowing them to **see all performances for free**. They can still be used today, for those lucky enough to be in possession of one.



BRITAIN'S TREASURES...

BRISTOL OLD VIC

Bristol

As Britain's longest continuously-running theatre celebrates a landmark age, Mel Sherwood takes a look behind the scenes and discovers a suitably dramatic history...

GETTING THERE:
Bristol Old Vic theatre is situated on King Street in Bristol, a 15-minute walk from Bristol Temple Meads train station. Regular buses run from the station. Parking is available on nearby Queen Charlotte Street.



TIRES AND PRICES:
As part of a weekend of celebrations, Bristol Old Vic is hosting a day of free guided tours on 28 May. Backstage tours also usually run on the first Saturday of the month, £5 per person. Check the website for more details.

FIND OUT MORE:
Call the box office on 0117 987 7877 or visit www.bristololdvic.org.uk

This year, Bristol Old Vic becomes the only theatre in the English-speaking world to reach its 250th birthday. To mark the occasion, it is presenting a special series of productions, and it promises to be spectacular. There's already an Olivier award nomination in the bag (for *Pink Mist*). This current celebration and glory only makes the theatre's story – which includes illicit beginnings, Nazi bombs and threats of closure – all the more remarkable.

The Bristol Theatre, as the playhouse was originally named, was completed in 1766, after 50 local citizens each invested £50 (some £3,700 in today's money).

It was built using designs by the architect of London's Theatre Royal on Drury Lane. Bristol's newest stage, however, was destined to have a rocky opening act.

THE SECRET KNOCK

The first of its issues may seem to be something of a design flaw. When the theatre opened its doors to the public on 30 May 1766 (when renowned dramatist David Garrick trod the boards), it didn't actually have any doors to open. Instead, every member of the audience had to knock on the house of the theatre's neighbour, Mr Foote, and be ushered through his home. What's more, the entire

theatre was hidden from street view. Andrew Stocker, Bristol Old Vic's Tour Guide, explains why: "The theatre was built without a patent; it was technically illegal."

A door was only one of the vital elements that the structure lacked, as the stage was constructed with no foundations. "We discovered that during some renovations," Stocker reveals. "We also found skeletons just beneath the surface." It seems that, on the occasions that plague ravaged the city, the dead were dumped, en masse, around the corner.

The teething problems of the early days did nothing to deter

BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Take a tour of Bristol Old Vic's backstage areas



WHAT TO LOOK FOR...



ORIGINAL BENCHES

Up in the gallery sit 18th-century auditorium benches. They weren't the most comfortable seats, nor did they boast good views as they were tucked away at the side of the stage.



THE ROYAL CREST

The gold crest issued to Bristol Old Vic when awarded its royal patent in 1778 can currently be seen above the dress circle entrance to the auditorium.



AUDITORIUM CEILING

The ornate ceiling above the audience was fitted in the early 1800s. Its angle (or 'rake') not only allows more room for seats, but makes for incredible acoustics.



MR FOOTE'S WALL

During works in 2012, a stretch of wall was uncovered. It was part of Mr Foote's house, through which all the ticket holders had to walk during the theatre's illegal years.



GRAFFITI

This schooner in full sail was likely scratched by the theatre's carpenter E J Harwell in 1863. Visitors can only see this on a backstage tour (see green box, left, for details).



SEATING PLAN

William Shakespeare's *Othello* was first staged at Bristol Old Vic in 1774 – a replica of the original seating plan can be seen as you head towards the upper circle.

“The story includes illicit beginnings and Nazi bombs”

audiences. Up to 1,000 patrons would squeeze into the auditorium (thanks to Mr Foote) to watch performances. Yet regulars must have been relieved when, in 1778, the theatre was awarded a royal patent, and officially renamed the Theatre Royal. As the playhouse was now legal, its actors could perform without fear of arrest.

Finally on the right side of the law, improvements to the building began. In the early 19th century, the auditorium's roof was raised, a new angled gallery was built and capacity increased to 1,620. The ceiling fitted then is the same one audience members see today.

During World War II, Bristol fell victim of Luftwaffe bombs. “The defence of the Theatre Royal fell to a man with a wooden leg,” admits Stocker, “who was stationed on

the roof to kick away any bombs that should fall.” It doesn't sound like a thorough precaution, but the danger was very real – the venue's main local rival, the Prince's Theatre in the north of the city, was hit and destroyed.

ACT THREE

As the nation settled into peace, attention shifted back to the arts. In 1946, the new Arts Council asked the London Old Vic theatre, led by Laurence Olivier, to send a company to Bristol's Theatre Royal, and Bristol Old Vic was born. That same year, an acting school was set up, which rapidly developed a reputation for turning out stellar actors. Its alumni include Daniel Day-Lewis, Patrick Stewart, Miranda Richardson and Olivia Colman, to name but a few.

Within a decade, Bristol Old Vic was setting the bar for theatre nationwide. “1954 was a magical year” Stocker claims. “It saw the birth of the musical *Salad Days* and the UK premiere of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. ”

While the theatre continued to flourish artistically, it was failing financially by the 1980s. It suffered a chronic lack of funding, and soon became threatened by closure. Thankfully, a campaign successfully saved the theatre. In 2012, a £19 million refurbishment plan began, the final phase of which gets underway this year.

The 250th anniversary weekend falls on 28–30 May, when a host of special events is on the theatre's agenda, including a day of free tours (see left) – keep your eyes open for our top picks above. ☺

WHY NOT VISIT...

Make a day of it – these sights are all within walking distance of the theatre

THE M SHED

Located beside the Floating Harbour in a dockside shed, the museum tells the story of Bristol from prehistoric times to the present. Entry is free. bristolmuseums.org.uk/m-shed

THE MATTHEW

Also located in the harbour, you can hop aboard a replica of the Tudor ship that carried explorer John Cabot on his voyage to North America in 1497. matthew.co.uk

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL

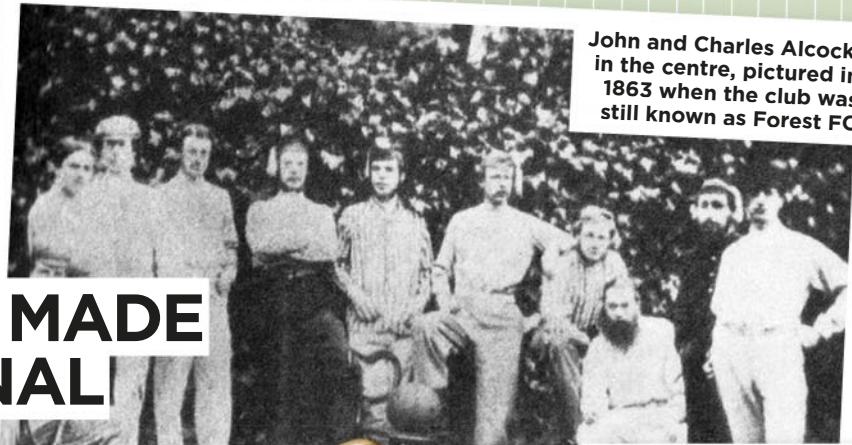
Founded as part of St Augustine's Abbey in the 12th century, this medieval cathedral is a rare survivor of the Dissolution of the Monasteries. bristol-cathedral.co.uk

PAST LIVES

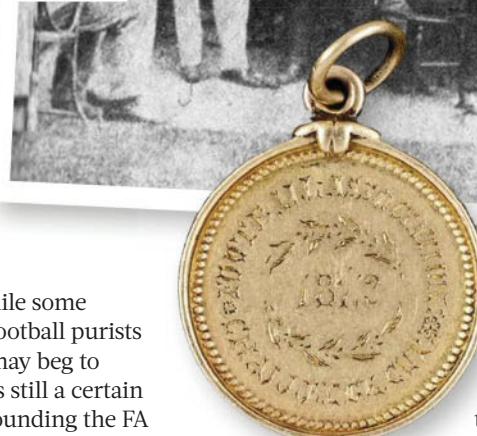
HISTORY THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR ANCESTORS

SPORTING HISTORY MADE AT FIRST FA CUP FINAL

Jon Bauckham tells the story of the 1872 FA Cup decider – a match that marked a new chapter in the story of the beautiful game



John and Charles Alcock, in the centre, pictured in 1863 when the club was still known as Forest FC



JUST NOT CRICKET

The 1872 final was played at **Kennington Oval**, now better known for hosting cricket. Some early football teams were actually **founded by cricket clubs** to keep their players fit during winter.

READER'S STORY



Karen Gunnell,
West London

I am the granddaughter of John Forster Alcock, whose brother –

Charles William Alcock – founded the FA Cup and won the first-ever competition with Wanderers.

The boys were born in Sunderland to a wealthy shipping merchant and sent to be educated at Harrow. While at the school, they developed their interest in football and later formed Forest, a club which evolved into Wanderers.

There was a large gap between generations and my father never mentioned our family history, so I didn't know about our football connections until ten years ago, when I was contacted by a chap in Sunderland who had researched the family.

Then, in 2008, I received a message from a man named Mark Wilson, who explained his plans to resurrect the club. My family was invited to some matches and events, including a restaging of the 1872 FA Cup final for charity. This time, however, the Royal Engineers thrashed Wanderers 7-1!

Along with my son Jo, I also travelled to Sunderland a few years ago to unveil a plaque outside Charles' birthplace. Jo is definitely football mad and has even played in some matches for Wanderers himself.



While some football purists may beg to differ, there's still a certain 'magic' surrounding the FA Cup. Each season, the historic knockout competition sees clubs throughout the English football pyramid battle it out for a slice of sporting glory. The final, held at Wembley, draws huge crowds and millions of TV viewers across the globe.

But the early years of the FA Cup were far removed from the tournament fans have come to know today. Masterminded by Football Association secretary Charles William Alcock, the inaugural 'Challenge Cup' of 1871-72 attracted just 15 amateur clubs.

Among the participants were Wanderers, a team captained by Harrow-educated Alcock himself. Founded as Forest FC in 1859 by him and his brother John, men of all classes could play for them; however, the team prided itself on the sporting values of Britain's prestigious public schools.

"Great things, it is said, from trivial things spring," Alcock later recalled. "The trivial cause in this instance was the humble desire of a few Old Harrovians, who had just left school, to keep up the practice at all events of the game at which they had shown some considerable aptitude."

THE ROAD TO KENNINGTON

Wanderers' path to cup glory began in December 1871, with a 3-1 victory over Clapham Rovers. Yet despite only managing goalless draws in their next two matches, Alcock's

In 2012, the current Wanderers and Royal Engineers sides replayed that first final

team went straight through to the final when several would-be opponents withdrew from the competition. Following this strange twist of fate, Wanderers arrived at the

Kennington Oval on 16 March 1872 to face a burly XI plucked from the ranks of the Royal Engineers. The military men were hot favourites, thanks to their pioneering passing style of play, but hopes of cup success began to fade when Wanderers forward Morton Betts slotted past Engineers keeper William Merriman on 15 minutes.

"The Engineers were by no means so formidable as had been anticipated," wrote one newspaper reporter, "and their backs not at all equal to their opponents. Nor did they play so well together; and in fact, they were overmatched throughout."

Alcock's men kept their 1-0 lead and secured victory in front of 2,000 spectators. During its short lifespan, the club went on to win the trophy a further four times before dissolving in 1887. A reformed Wanderers side aims to enter the FA Cup by 2021-22. ◎

GET HOOKED

A visit to Manchester's National Football Museum (www.nationalfootballmuseum.com) is essential for any football fan. Details about the reformed Wanderers can be found at www.originalwanderers.com. The men's first team currently play in the 14th tier of English football.

DO YOU HAVE AN ANCESTOR WITH A STORY TO TELL? GET IN TOUCH...

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1990'**

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- IN GERMANY, the British Army of the Rhine fights a massive armoured battle...

Its two minutes to midnight in World War 1990: Operation Arctic Storm

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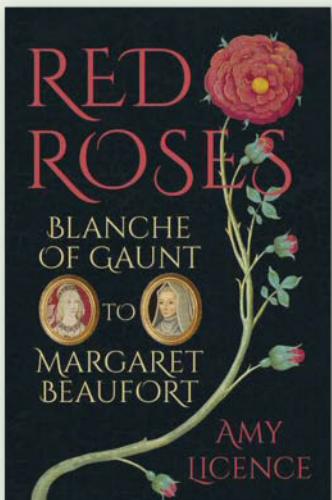
e mail oldcount@aol.com www.oldcountrytours.com



American Civil War Round Table, UK www.acwrt.org.uk

BOOKS

BOOK OF THE MONTH



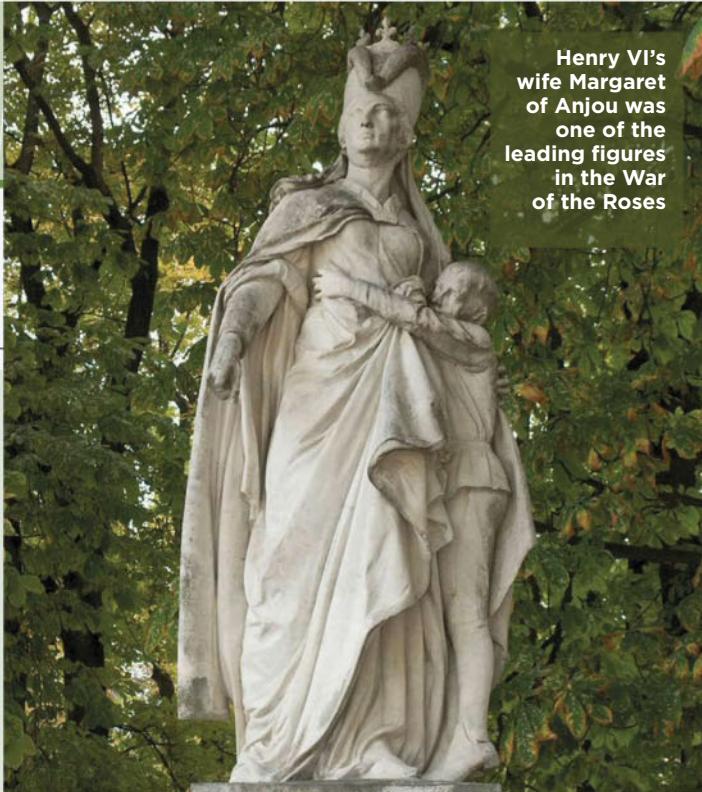
Red Roses: Blanche of Gaunt to Margaret Beaufort

By Amy Licence

The History Press, £20,
384 pages, hardback

When we think of the Wars of the Roses, the 15th-century battles between the houses of Lancaster and York for the English throne, we tend to think of men fighting on horseback in muddy fields. Yet this thought-provoking new book argues that we should also turn our attention to the women – queens and council leaders, wives and mothers –

who shaped the conflict in a different way. Exploring the stories of those on the Lancastrian side, Amy Licence also offers valuable insights into the ways in which women throughout this period could shape both their own lives and those of the people around them.



Henry VI's wife Margaret of Anjou was one of the leading figures in the War of the Roses

MEET THE AUTHOR

Amy Licence explores the more influential women on the Lancastrian side of the War of the Roses – and how history has judged them

How much influence did the women in the book have over wider events, and what form did it take?

I cover women in a range of roles, from queens to wives and mothers, so the answer varies. Their direct political influence was limited, but this did develop over time as the dynasty advanced. So we can go from Joan of Navarre's subtle influence over Henry IV to Margaret of Anjou being rejected as regent, then Margaret Beaufort practically running the country in the weeks leading to the coronation of her grandson Henry VIII. The majority, though, influenced things indirectly, behind closed doors, giving advice to their men or sharing their opinions, although this is the kind of

history that doesn't get recorded so often.

What sources can be used to find out about this varied influence?

There are a number of primary sources, such as parliamentary records, clothing accounts and contemporary letters. There is also a surprising amount of poetry written about these women by their peers, but often we're seeing them from the outside, so they have to be interpreted with caution.

Which of the women you feature in the book stand out as particular heroes of yours?

For me, there's always a degree of pathos when a woman doesn't get to see the fruits of their labour. For this reason, I found the lives of both Blanche of Lancaster and Mary de Bohun interesting in the early years of the dynasty, with Blanche as the mother of Henry IV and Mary as the wife of Henry Bolingbroke's youth and the mother of the future Henry V. They never got to see their husband or son become king.

I'm also impressed by women such as Margaret of Anjou, who fought back against the odds and tried to challenge the status quo.

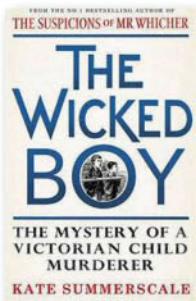
What misconceptions of this period would you like the book to help change?

I was horrified by the interpretations some historians put upon the actions of these women. Their gender led them to be considered 'grasping' or 'greedy'; men would have been called 'driven' or 'ambitious'. I hope the book shows the bias of these interpretations. I also wanted to show they weren't the helpless pawns they're sometimes portrayed as, that they did have a hand in shaping their own destinies.

"Their gender led them to be considered 'grasping' or 'greedy'"



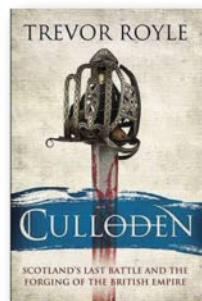
THE BEST OF THE REST



The Wicked Boy: the Mystery of a Victorian Child Murderer

By Kate Summerscale
Bloomsbury, £16.99,
400 pages, hardback

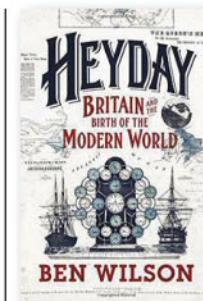
Kate Summerscale – author of 2008's bestselling *The Suspicions of Mr Whicher, or the Murder at Road Hill House* – explores the truth and consequences of another real-life Victorian crime in this latest fictionalised account, as two young boys are caught up in a court case that sparks a media frenzy.



Culloden: Scotland's Last Battle and the Forging of the British Empire

By Trevor Royle
Little Brown, £25,
432 pages, hardback

The 1745 Battle of Culloden saw the English army defeat Charles Edward Stuart's Jacobites in their attempt to regain the throne for the Stuart line. But, as Royle's absorbing, fast-paced chronicle shows, there was substantially more at stake in a battle that was to have long-lasting significance.



Heyday: Britain and the Birth of the Modern World

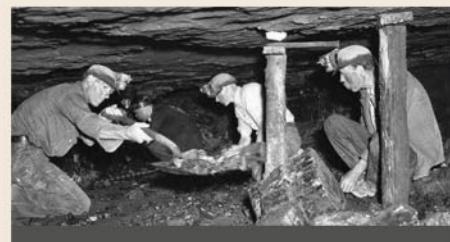
By Ben Wilson
Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £25, 496 pages, hardback

What was it about the 1850s that led to it becoming a period of such remarkable economic, technological and social change? Seen through the eyes of the key players, Ben Wilson's book traverses the globe in search of answers, producing a fresh, compelling take on what was arguably the pivotal decade in the entire Victorian era.

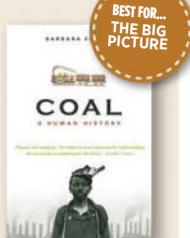
READ UP ON...

MINING

Want to learn more about mining, the industry that fuelled the Industrial Revolution? Head deeper underground with these books...



A century ago, up to a million Britons were employed as coalminers



Coal: a Human History

By Barbara Freese (2005)

Humans have extracted many materials from the ground and here the story of just one – coal – is told in dramatic fashion. It has sparked wars, powered mass social change and may still shape our future. A vibrant account of a sometimes dark industry.

VISUAL BOOK OF THE MONTH



The Somme and Verdun

By Julian Thompson
Andre Deutsch, £40, 66 pages, hardback

A century ago, World War I was in brutal, bloody full swing, with two battles in particular – Verdun and the Somme – costing hundreds of thousands of lives. This visual guide, replete with photos, maps and diaries, takes us back to the dark heart of the conflict.

Julian Thompson's book is a detailed, visually attractive overview of these two titanic battles

The World of Poldark

By Emma Marriott (2015)

Winston Graham's fictional Ross Poldark – immortalised in the BBC One TV drama – attempted to make his living in Cornwall's tin mines. This visually appealing book explores the real world that inspired the character and his exploits.

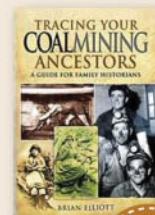


BEST FOR...
SOCIAL HISTORY

Tracing Your Coalmining Ancestors: a Guide for Family Historians

By Brian A Elliott (2014)

If you think one of your forebears may have been among the ranks of Britain's coalminers – which numbered more than a million a century ago – then this book is an excellent resource for uncovering more.

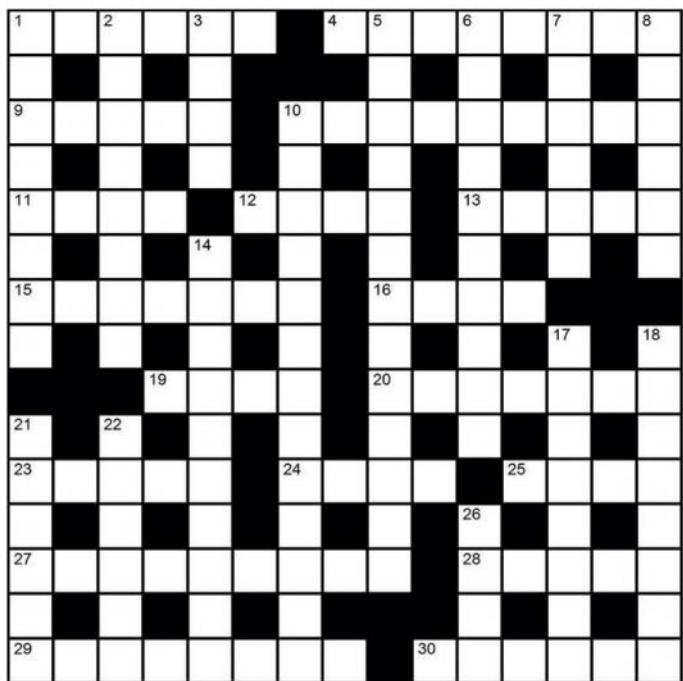


BEST FOR...
FAMILY HISTORY

CROSSWORD N° 29

Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic new book

Set by Richard Smyth



ACROSS

- 1 Prince of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, married to Victoria (6)
- 4 City, formerly Byzantium and Constantinople (8)
- 9 Castle, fortification built by William the Conqueror on the Isle of Purbeck, Dorset (5)
- 10 Joseph (1733–1804), Yorkshire-born discoverer of oxygen (9)
- 11 Sweeney (demon barber of Victorian melodrama) (4)
- 12 1957 novel by Vladimir Nabokov, set on the campus of an American university (4)
- 13 Verse form associated with the Roman poet Horace (5)
- 15 International, human rights organisation founded in London in 1961 (7)
- 16 Battle of the (Horatio Nelson's 1798 victory against the French) (4)
- 19 German industrial region, heavily bombed in WWII (4)
- 20 Battle of (major World War I conflict marking its centenary in 2016) (7)
- 23 Mesoamerican civilisation and empire (5)
- 24 Pavlova, Akhmatova or Karenina, perhaps (4)
- 25 Helmut (b.1930), Chancellor of West Germany from 1982 to 1990 (4)
- 27 Warwickshire golf course that has hosted the Ryder Cup four times (3,6)
- 28 Caribbean state established by a slave revolt in 1804 (5)

CROSSWORD COMPETITION TERMS & CONDITIONS

The competition is open to all UK residents (inc. Channel Islands), aged 18 or over, except Immediate Media Co Bristol Ltd employees or contractors, and anyone connected with the competition or their direct family members. By entering, participants agree to be bound by these terms and conditions and that their name and county may be released if they win. Only one entry per person.

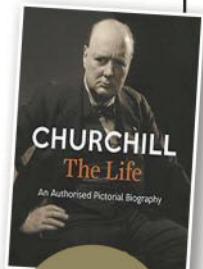
The closing date and time is as shown under **How to Enter**, above. Entries received after that will not be considered. Entries cannot be returned. Entrants must supply full name, address and daytime phone number. Immediate Media Company (publishers of *History Revealed*) will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this competition, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone without permission. Read more about the Immediate Privacy Policy at www.immediatemedia.co.uk/privacy-policy.

The winning entrants will be the first correct entries drawn at random after the closing time. The prize and number of winners will be as shown on the Crossword page. There is no cash alternative and the prize will not be transferable. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited's decision is final and no correspondence relating to the competition will be entered into. The winners will be notified by post within 28 days of the close of the competition. The name and county of residence of the winners will be published in the magazine within two months of the

CHANCE TO WIN

Churchill: the Life

by Max Arthur



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SOLUTION N° 27



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Relax and read on as **Nige Tassell** rustles up a rollicking range of reminiscences, records and rays of razzle-dazzle

RETURN OF RALEGH'S REMAINS

Following the beheading of Sir Walter Raleigh in 1618, the English explorer's body was buried in the ground of Westminster Abbey – minus the head. That was embalmed, placed in a red velvet bag and presented to his widow, who proceeded to carry it around with her for the remaining 29 years of her life.

The roaring revolution

At the height of the French Revolution, in 1793, the National Convention ordered that the exotic pets – which belonged to the ruined rich – should be killed, stuffed and handed over to scientists for study. The boffins, however, preferred to examine live animals, so the beasts were given a stay of execution. A new home was opened at the *Jardin des Plantes* in central Paris, which became France's first public zoo as the inquisitive public showed up to gawp at the creatures.

RICHARD'S ROYAL REWARD

King Richard I (aka Richard the Lionheart) loved feasting so much that he once knighted his cook. After relishing an especially regal meal, a good-humoured – and probably rattled – Richard declared the man who prepared the food to be the 'Lord of the fief of the kitchen of the counts of Poitou'.



RASPUTIN RUMBLES WITH THE REAPER

When, in 1916, a cadre of noblemen in Tsarist Russia decided to do away with the 'mad monk' (and favourite of Nicholas II's wife) Rasputin, they couldn't have guessed at the difficulty of the task. The sex-crazed and rotten-smelling mystic may have been easily lured into a trap, yet he survived being poisoned, beaten and sustaining no less than three gun shots. The assassins finally finished the deed, but only after Rasputin's battered body was dumped into the freezing Neva river.

THE RAILWAYS RUN ON TIME

Before the expansion of the railways in Britain, towns and cities worked to their own local time. Exeter, for instance, ran 14 minutes behind London. But as the Great Western Railway rolled across the land from 1840 onwards, it pioneered the use of Greenwich Mean Time across its network. By 1855, 98 per cent of Britain followed GMT.

Record-ravaging Ronnie

Not only was Ronald Reagan the oldest US President – he was already 69 when he took office – but he remains the only divorcee to take occupancy of the White House.

RED BARON'S RUDE REQUEST

Manfred von Richthofen – the World War I German flying ace better known as the Red Baron (see page 76) – might never have taken to the skies, but for a show of impudence that bordered on insubordination. Marooned in a minor position in the German army supply branch, he cheekily requested a move to the air corps. "I have not gone to war in order to collect cheese and eggs," he brazenly wrote in his transfer application, "but for another purpose."

ROMAN RE-ENACTMENTS

During its heyday, the Colosseum in Rome wasn't just ruled by gladiatorial battles and the slaughter of wild animals (an estimated one million of whom lost their lives as public entertainment). The arena would at times also be flooded to allow for the re-enactment of famous sea battles.

A Royal Occasion

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